legacy…

“I am on Charlie Kirk’s hit list,” Patton wrote to her 215,000 followers on Facebook. “His so-called ‘Professor Watchlist,’ run under the umbrella of Turning Point USA, is nothing more than a digital hit list for academics who dare to speak truth to power. I landed there in 2024 after writing commentary that inflamed the MAGA faithful. And once my name went up, the harassment machine roared to life.”

“For weeks my inbox and voicemail were deluged. Mostly white men spat venom through the phone: ‘bitch,’ ‘c*nt,’ ‘n****r.’ They threatened all manner of violence,” she continued.

“They overwhelmed the university’s PR lines and the president’s office with calls demanding that I be fired,” Patton wrote. “The flood was so relentless that the head of campus security reached out to offer me an escort, because they feared one of these keyboard soldiers might step out of his basement and come do me harm.”

“And I am not unique,” she added.

“Kirk’s Watchlist has terrorized legions of professors across this country. Women, Black faculty, queer scholars, basically anyone who challenged white supremacy, gun culture, or Christian nationalism suddenly found themselves targets of coordinated abuse,” Patton wrote.

“Some received death threats. Some had their jobs threatened. Some left academia entirely. Kirk sent the loud message to us: speak the truth and we will unleash the mob!” she continued.

“That is the culture of violence Charlie Kirk built. He normalized violence. He curated it, monetized it, and sicced it on anyone who dared to puncture his movement’s lies,” she wrote.

“And now, in the wake of his shooting, there’s all this national outpouring of mourning, moments of silence, yellow prayer hands, and tributes painting him as a civil debater,” Patton continued. “But the truth is that Kirk and his foot soldiers spent years terrorizing educators, trying to silence us with harassment and fear!”

“And now the same violence he unleashed on others has come full circle.”

“But what i find especially jarring is the dissonance in public mourning for a smug white man whose life work was actively hostile to certain groups,” she continued. “Kirk spent years demonizing LGBTQ people, mocking gun survivors, spewing racism about Black folks, and pushing policies that literally shorten lives.”

“It is so revolting to watch a bipartisan wave of grief sweep over this hateful racist as if he was a neutral community servant,” she concluded.

This is pure unvarnished truth from Patton. Charlie Kirk did not deserve what happened to him, but nor did his victims deserve the hell that he unleashed on them. If Americans are going to build a more peaceful future for ourselves we must condemn political violence while also condemning the hateful, bigoted rhetoric that made Kirk a multimillionaire.

Please retweet and ❤️ if Patton’s message struck a chord with you!

4K 38K 120K 7M

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Freedom for the Prisoners from San Juan Cancuc, Chiapas

September 13, 2025

The text below provides an overview of the case of five imprisoned Tzeltal land defenders from San Juan Cancuc, Chiapas, and how they can be supported during a crucial moment in the fight for their freedom.

The Context

San Juan Cancuc is an Indigenous Tzeltal municipality in the highlands of Chiapas located about halfway between the popular tourist destinations of San Cristóbal de Las Casas and the Cascadas de Agua Azul. For more than 20 years, the federal and state governments have been attempting to “develop” the region via the construction of a superhighway, called the Highway of Cultures. This highway would connect the coast of Chiapas in the west - where the Interoceanic Corridor will pass - with the highlands and jungle regions of the east - where they Maya Train will pass. With neoliberal development comes militarization, and attempts have been underway to construct a National Guard base near San Juan Cancuc. Since coming to power in 2018, the MORENA party has accelerated these projects.

The proposed Highway of Cultures is to pass through San Juan Cancuc and the State has put pressure on the municipality to agree to the construction - including withholding social programs. In repeated community assemblies, the residents of the municipality and neighboring communities have rejected both construction of the superhighway and the National Guard base.

The Case

Within this context, at 5 AM on the morning of May 29, 2022, residents of San Juan Cancuc found a municipal police officer drunk and handed him over to other officers. At 10 AM, this officer was found dead on a sidewalk. A few hours later, three of the people who handed the drunk cop over to his colleagues, Manuel Sántiz Cruz, Agustín Pérez Domínguez, and Juan Velasco Aguilar, were arrested for possession of marijuana. Other residents came to testify as to their innocence.

The possession charges against the three were dropped two days later. Yet upon being released, they were immediately arrested again and charged with homicide in the death of the cop. Two people who came to testify in their support were also arrested and charged: Agustín Pérez Velasco and Martín Pérez Domínguez. The state claims the five men kicked the cop to death as his colleagues watched, when in reality, the cop was handed over to other cops and by all indications he was killed by his colleagues. In May 2023, a judge ruled that all five were guilty of homicide and gave each a sentence of 25 years in prison. On appeal, their sentences were reduced to 18.5 years. They are currently held in the State Center for Social Reintegration for Convicts (CERSS) Number 5 in San Cristóbal de Las Casas.

The Politics

The case of the San Juan Cancuc 5 is understood as serving two purposes for the State. One is that it pins the killing of a cop on those who are not also cops, and two, it punishes the community - of which all five are active members - for its opposition to neoliberal development projects.

The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on May 15, 2025, issued a report on the San Juan Cancuc 5 that states they were detained for their political work and calls for their immediate release.

The arrests of the five individuals were due to their activism as members of the human rights committee, specifically in a context where State officials are alleged to systematically engage in the criminalization of human rights defenders and defenders of land and territory in Chiapas (7).

The Working Group considers that, taking into account all the circumstances of the case, the

appropriate remedy would be to release the five individuals immediately and accord them an enforceable right to compensation and other reparations, in accordance with international law (14).

In a joint statement on July 23, 2025, seven international human rights groups reaffirmed the Working Group's findings and called for the immediate release of the five:

> Furthermore, the Working Group recognizes the five convicted men as human rights defenders and considers that their criminalization is precisely due to their work in defense of land and territory and to the fact that they belong to the Tzeltal ethnic group, discrimination that extends even to their lack of proficiency in Spanish (2).
>
> We request that the authorities of the Mexican State and the state of Chiapas: Comply with the opinion issued by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which translates into the immediate release of Manuel Sántiz Cruz, Juan Velasco Aguilar, Augustín Pérez Domínguez, Agustín Pérez Velasco, and Martín Pérez Domínguez; the investigation of the authorities responsible for their criminalization; and full reparation for all damages caused (4).

In a joint statement on April 18, 2024, multiple human rights groups in Chiapas identified the five as land and human rights defenders and called for their immediate release:

> During this lengthy process, which has lasted 22 months and 18 days of arbitrary deprivation of freedom for the five defenders of the Cancuc territory, we have confirmed and demonstrated their innocence, and observed that the fabrication of evidence by the Prosecutor's Office is a constant.
>
> The criminalization of Indigenous defenders in Chiapas and Mexico is a form of exemplary punishment for defending human rights, land, and territory. It is rooted in structural racism and is carried out through arbitrary deprivation of freedom, torture, and fabrication of guilt. Members of the Mexican Army and National Guard participate in the arrests, in addition to the failure to provide trials with an intercultural perspective, accompanied by excessive use of preventive detention.

Support

The San Juan Cancuc 5 are being accompanied by the abolitionist Grupo de Trabajo No Estamos Todxs. Here's a statement they released recently regarding their work for the five, as well as an interview with a member [Part 1, Part 2]. The group is attempting to make noise in the lead up to November of this year, when two crucial decisions are scheduled to be made. On the one hand, the court must rule on an *amparo* filed on behalf of the imprisoned compañeros. An *amparo* is akin to an injunction arguing that their rights have been violated and they must be freed. Secondly, the Mexican State is treaty-bound to respond to the United Nations call to release the five by the month of November.

Towards that end, the Grupo de Trabajo No Estamos Todxs is selling t-shirts to raise funds for the compañeros, as well as requesting that video messages of solidarity in any language be sent to them by September 22. Below is the call for videos. If you have questions or are interested in a t-shirt, please contact Scott Campbell.

Solidarity video campaign for the freedom of the prisoners from San Juan Cancuc

To all our compañerxs, organizations, and solidarity groups:

For more than three years, five compañeros from San Juan Cancuc have been unjustly imprisoned in CERSS No. 5 in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas. Their only "crime" has been to be Indigenous and defenders of the land and territory. Despite repeated demonstrations of their innocence, the Mexican state has convicted them in trials riddled with irregularities.

The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has requested that the Mexican government release them immediately and comply with its international human rights obligations.

We therefore call on everyone to participate in the Solidarity Video Campaign by sending a message of support demanding their release.

The video must be in vertical format (30 to 60 seconds) and include the following message:

- "We demand the immediate release of our five imprisoned compañeros from San Juan Cancuc."
- "Stop the fabrication of guilt!"
- "Comply with the opinion of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention."

Send your video to: noestamostodxs@riseup.net

We will not rest until our five compañeros regain their freedom.

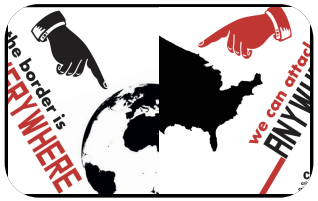
Sincerely,
Grupo de Trabajo No Estamos Todxs

Tens of Thousands March in DC and Chicago Against ICE and Trump Occupation

September 9, 2025

On Saturday, September 6th, tens of thousands of DC and Chicago residents took to the streets against ICE and ongoing threats by the Trump administration to use DHS and the National Guard to occupy US cities. In DC, thousands marched on the White House, carrying "Free DC" signs and

-9/18 Tampa, FL (Law Enforcement Hiring Event)
-9/19-21 Huntington Beach, CA (Fitness Festival)
-9/19-21 Loudon, NH (NASCAR Race)
-9/24 Houston, TX (College Career Fair)
-9/26-28 San Diego, CA (Air Show)
-9/27 Fort Carson, CO (Tough Mudder)
-9/30 Corpus Christi, TX (College Career Fair)
-10/7 Amarillo, TX (Job Fair)
-10/8 Houston, TX (College Career Fair)
-10/15 Boise, ID (College Career Fair)



Jailhouse Lawyers Speak - @JailLawSpeak · Sep 14

HOW CAN YOU CAN SUPPORT US??

"Send a list of ways you can support instead of asking how you can support us."

We don't know your resources or ways.
It could be something we never thought of. Solidarity!

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak

Contact:
Jailhouselawyersspeak@protonmail.c

0 2 4 389

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak - @JailLawSpeak · Sep 14

Today, we had a conference call with different reps from inside the prisons. Within the first 4 minutes, we had to kick 4 of them off line. Just because they are in here with us don't mean we are all on the same kind of time.

We can't organize with any and everybody

1 2 10 501

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak -

@JailLawSpeak · Sep 14

*** Should have stated that Jailhouse Lawyers Speak was meeting with other people in the prisons for organizing purposes. We did not kick our own members off.

0 0 7 228

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak - @JailLawSpeak · Sep 13

This Kirk situation and the politics around it is a perfect example of America today.

The contradictions are glaring. It's like an exposed hand

0 1 13 480

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak - @JailLawSpeak · Sep 13

When ppl say they are neutral across the board 🤣🤣🤣

0 0 2 285

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak - @JailLawSpeak · Sep 12

This is a country where ppl have normalized states flying confederate flags or having confederate holidays. While blks are sentence under the same representation.

Amerika is a lie

0 1 6 393

kevin blue @kevinblue345 · Sep 12

It should be public, It should be quick, it should be telivised

946 8K 44K 2M

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak - @JailLawSpeak · Sep 12

".... I WAS PRAYING THAT THIS WOULDN'T BE ONE OF US..." What is he really saying??? Wake the fk up

"I wish we could blame this on Muslims or migrants, but turns out it was one of us."

0 4 9 558

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak - @JailLawSpeak · Sep 12

Atleast he is honest. You all better wake up

Art Candee @ArtCandee · Sep 12

Donald Trump is asked how we can fix this country and come together.

His response?

"I couldn't care less."

Bro is unfit for office.

0 0 3 548

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak - @JailLawSpeak · Sep 11

Dumbest shit ever.
🦃🦃🦃

Barack Obama @BarackObama · Sep 10

We don't yet know what motivated the person who shot and killed Charlie Kirk, but this kind of despicable violence has no place in our democracy. Michelle and I will be praying for Charlie's family tonight, especially his wife Erika and their two young children.

1 1 15 864

Occupy Democrats @OccupyDemocrats · Sep 11

BREAKING: Journalist and college professor Stacey Patton goes viral by penning a stunningly powerful statement about how she was on Charlie Kirk's "digital hit list" and recounting the horror that he inflicted on her.

We cannot allow this tragic assassination to whitewash Kirk's

Nothing could be more naïve than to imagine that Donald Trump's effort to put the military on the streets of US cities has anything to do with "fighting crime." He himself is very clear: this is an act of war against the part of the population that does not support his autocracy.

No political party is going to protect us. We must build the capacity to defend ourselves through grassroots initiatives or watch powerlessly as his mercenaries come for our neighbors one after another until they finally come for us.

Gather the people you trust and discuss what kinds of action you are prepared to take together. The fascists are not in a position to triumph over us unless we remain passive. Get organized. 🏴

https://crimethinc.com/opsec

Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump
I love the smell of deportations in the morning...'
Chicago about to find out why it's called the Department of WAR

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 4

Voices from the Uprising in Indonesia

https://crimethinc.com/Indonesia2025

A wave of protest exploded across Indonesia at the end of August 2025. In this report, we present an interview with an imprisoned Indonesian anarchist author along with various statements from anarchist groups that have reached English-speaking outlets since the uprising began.

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 3

Today, we are remembering David Graeber, who passed away five years ago.

“Nothing could conceivably be more violent than to tell us—and particularly our young people—we are forbidden to even dream of a peaceful, caring world.”

https://crimethinc.com/ShockofVictory

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 2

This time, the international press and politicians are calling attention to "the maturity of Brazilian democracy" in trying Bolsonaro for his political crimes and making him ineligible to run for office so he doesn't return to power with impunity the way Trump did in the US. But it's symptomatic that Brazilian institutions only moved to act when the lives of their high-ranking members were at risk, not when Bolsonaro weaponized the COVID-19 pandemic against the poor, favela populations, and Indigenous peoples and turned entire cities into testing grounds for COVID-denialism, causing more than 716,000 senseless deaths, as attested by a parliamentary commission that investigated and gathered evidence of his crimes against the population.

We cannot expect these institutions to protect us. Historically, they have sided with coup plotters and murderers and only act to protect themselves. Our only hope is to organize a popular force capable of defending itself beyond the spectacles of media trials.

https://crimethinc.com/VirusofPopulis

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 2

The trial of Jair Bolsonaro and his allied generals begins today for their plot to stage a coup d'état in January 2023 after losing the election to Lula da Silva. In addition to a business-funded uprising that stormed the government headquarters in Brasília on January 8, 2023—emulating Trump on January 6—his political and military allies plotted to kill Lula, his vice-presidential candidate, and members of the Brazilian Supreme Court.

This is the first time in Brazil that a political leader and military generals have gone to court for a coup d'état or attempted coup. The country has endured several coup attempts and two dictatorships—the last of which lasted until 1985—and none of the military officials responsible for disappearances, torture, and deaths have been tried and punished.

https://crimethinc.com/January8Brazil

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 2

Keep the pressure on them!

Border Patrol recruitment events in September:

https://careers.cbp.gov/s/connect-to-recruiter/event-calendar

-9/3 Laredo, TX (Job Fair)
-9/5-7 Big Bear, CA (Tough Mudder)
-9/5-7 Scottsdale, AZ (Rodeo)
-9/6-7 Glen Jean, WV (Spartan Trifecta)
-9/6 Philadelphia, PA (Spartan Stadion)
-9/10 Devils Lake, ND (Job Fair)
-9/12 Charlotte, NC (College Career Fair)
-9/12-13 Greensboro, NC (Rodeo)
-9/12-14 Queen Creek, AZ (Gun Expo)
-9/13-14 Snohomish, WA (Spartan)
-9/15-16 Provo, UT (Law Enforcement Expo)
-9/16-17 College Station, TX (College Career Fair)
-9/17 Indio, CA (Job Fair)
-9/18 Shalimar, FL (Job Fair)
-9/18 El Paso, TX (Veterans Job Fair)

banners, many emblazoned with the “Sandwich Guy” image, which has become popularized through street art, graffiti, and wheat-pasted posters, following one person being arrested by over 20 officers for allegedly throwing a sandwich at federal forces after calling them “fascists.” Despite attempts by the Trump administration to charge the person with a felony, a federal grand jury refused to indict the accused, following a growing trend.

> Massive anti-ICE, anti-occupation march on the White House happening right now in #DC. #FreeDC
>
> — It's Going Down (@igd.bsky.social) 2025-09-06T17:50:26.863Z

As *DC Media Group* reported:

> Tens of thousands of DC citizens rallied and marched Saturday demanding the immediate end to occupation forces and an end to police harassment and illegal arrests in communities throughout the city. The We Are All DC action was in response to the regime’s deployment of 1000s of federal police and over 2000 Army National Guard Soldiers from Southern States, including Ohio, West Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Citizens denounced roundups of immigrants, traffic stop traps, and the arrests some U.S. citizens.
>
> The march began at Malcom X Park and ended about a mile away at Freedom Plaza, where organizers told of the adverse affects the occupation had on their communities, police stops to check drivers, usually without probable cause, and ICE roundups of immigrants and green card holders awaiting their final approval as citizens. Businesses were being hampered or closed because customers were not coming to the city and workers were afraid to go to work.
>
> Trump’s claim that a crime emergency justified the occupation forces has been resoundingly rejected by DC citizens. Trump’s claim of rising criminal element also was not supported by crime data published by his own Department of Justice. Such crime data accumulated by government police agencies over the past three decades actuality reflects a marked reduction in crime rates, according to a Department of Justice Report on crime in DC.
>
> Mayor Bowser signed an agreement granting cooperation with occupation forces in DC beyond the 30 day emergency expiration which was scheduled to expire on September 10. While Mayor Bowser denied she was agreeing to cooperate with extending the President’s crime emergency crackdown, grassroots groups expressed a sense of betrayal that she was cooperating with authorities in the first place. Speakers told how their communities had suffered greatly under the occupation and the Mayor’s agreement was a furtherance of that suffering.
>
> Reporting from the demonstrations on Saturday in DC, journalist Chuck Modiano said of the demonstrations, “All of DC has come out and said, “Fuck this fascist takeover. Get these troops, out of DC. Get ICE, fascist gestapo goons, out of DC”....DC has had enough, this has been going on for three weeks, maybe not at this scale, but there has been Copwatches going on for three weeks now, in all forms and varieties, and DC has had enough.”
>
> As Dave Zirin and Chuck Modiano both reported in *The Nation*, a growing network of mutual aid groups, Copwatch programs, and rapid response teams have mobilized to push back against federal law enforcement flooding DC streets with checkpoints and violent attack squads, aimed squarely at working-class residents:
>
> When the night comes, it is not just the National Guard, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and a jumpy police department walking the streets. In an otherwise eerily quiet city, the people are present as well. Armed only with cell phones, medical kits, and the confidence to assert their dwindling rights, groups of local residents trail and record Trump’s occupation forces. They’re known as the night patrols.
>
> There is no centralized night-patrol planning committee. People in different groups don’t necessarily know each other, but everyone with whom we spoke was either experienced in this kind of work through previous cop-watch trainings or are compelled by what is happening to play their part in making sure the foot soldiers of the surveillance state know they too are being surveilled.
>
> Every night patrol is different. One volunteer told us that it “fluctuates depending on events and community needs. Different crews have their own rhythms.” Sometimes that means groups are small—maybe just three or four people—and other times it means flooding the streets with rallies that turn into patrols when the speeches are done.
>
> Last Saturday, the DC Against Trump Coalition (DCAT) started a rally at 14th and U in one of DC’s curfew zones where minors are barred from gathering after 8 pm, allowing police to target Black youths as soon as the sun goes down. The event ended with groups of protesters patrolling different areas of DC up until 4 am.
>
> There’s a common and familiar refrain at protests, which in DC has become more than slogan—it’s an organizing principle. Ty Hopson Powell at the Defend the District go-go rally repeated it to us as he explained the importance of grassroots organizing: “It is *us* that will save us! It is the message that we have been saying on the streets for years as frontline organizers who are the most invested in this work. WE WILL SAVE US! They won’t save us.”
>
> Protests in the Chicago area, which s a w cancelled celebrations for Mexican Independence Day out of fear of targeted raids, also continued against ICE, taking place in the downtown, outside of the Great Lakes Naval Base and the

Broadview, IL Detention Center, where protesters erected tents and blocked ICE vans from coming inside the facility.

> Thank you to everyone in Illinois who stood up to ICE mercenaries today. This is what it will take—to put our own bodies and freedom on the line in order to make every action they take as difficult as possible.crimethinc.com/zines/sev ...It is, in fact, our own freedom on the line.
>
> — CrimethInc. Ex-Workers' Collective (@crimethinc.com) 2025-09-05T17:46:26.231Z

The mass protests and demonstrations come as Trump is escalating violent rhetoric about the invasion of large cities, recently posting that "Chicago [is] about to find out why it's called the Department of WAR." Meanwhile, the Supreme Court issued a green-light for ICE to engage in racial profiling in Los Angeles as the "Department of Justice's Board of Immigration Appeals ruled that people who enter the country without authorization must be detained throughout their removal proceedings, a process that can take years." Reports show that the number of people in detention by the DHS is at a record high, while as *Fortune* reported, "[T]he majority of people currently detained by ICE have no criminal convictions. Of those who do, relatively few have been convicted of high-level crimes — a stark contrast to the chilling nightmare Trump describes to support his border security agenda."

> This morning, at the Broadview, Illinois (suburban #Chicago) ICE detention facility, protesters singing "We shall not be moved!" blocked #ICE from entering the facility. As the vehicle turned around the crowd celebrated another #resistance victory! #Trump #EpsteinFiles #Resist #immigrants
>
> — The Weekly Opine (@theweeklyopine.bsky.social) 2025-09-05T16:19:32.088Z

Regardless of if Trump does mobilize National Guard troops to send to more US cities, DHS is already carrying out multiple operations, with current surges recently announced in Chicago and Boston. DHS also recently carried out a massive operation at a Hyundai plant in Georgia, detaining hundreds of workers, and Tom Homan has continued to paint Portland, OR as a hotbed of "protest violence" against ICE. The raids carried out by the DHS under Trump have been designed to instill terror and fear across entire communities and have already led to several deaths, as multiple people have died while attempting to escape during ICE raids, while at least 14 people have died in ICE detention camps since Trump took office. Prisoners in detention report widespread human rights abuses and horrific conditions, while ICE agents have been documented carrying out brutal attacks on individuals, violently targeting those filming their actions; even shooting up a families' car in Southern California and arresting US citizens.

> An amazing sign at the 🧊 protest in Chicago today! We do not want nazis and 🧊 in our communities!! I love Chicago so much! Fuck 🧊
>
> — Jin X. Goh | 吴晋勋 (@jinxungoh.bsky.social) 2025-09-07T00:55:41.294Z

While the Trump administration has attempted to paint its immigration policies as a return to "law and order" or through the reactionary faux-populist framing that less immigrants will mean lower housing costs and better jobs, in reality the Trump administration's push for mass deportations is driven by white nationalist ideology that seeks to purge the US of non-whites through organized state repression and brutality. Recent branding by the DHS on social media only solidifies this reality: amplifying established neo-Nazi and white supremacist memes and conspiracy theories. This project, made possibly by decades of help from the Democratic party, which has demonized immigrants, militarized the border, and pushed millions to migrate in search of work, seems to have at least partially backfired, with many recoiling at the authoritarian and racist nature of ICE and its devastating impacts on wholesale communities.

> Can't express in words how big this rally in Chicago is. The president's fascist goon squad is not welcome here.
>
> — Tim Onion (@bencollins.bsky.social) 2025-09-06T23:51:52.628Z

Attacks on immigrants are also taking place against a backdrop of increasing inflation, costs, wealth inequality and a declining standard of living for the entire working-class inside the US, as the financial and tech elite rally around Trump, celebrating record profits and tax-cuts as the Trump family rakes in billions. With increasing signs that the economy is stagnating due to everything from tariffs, an AI-bubble, and the deportation of low-wage workers crucial to capitalism, multiple crises threaten to erupt into potential social conflict and instability, as farmers face bankruptcy, home ownership remains unaffordable for the vast majority of workers, and the incoming impacts of cuts to Medicaid threatens to shutter hospitals and throw millions off of healthcare.

> Normal fucking country
>
> — unraveled (@unraveledpress.com) 2025-09-07T04:46:13.409Z

While Trump and his top advisors continue to lie, claiming that things will get better for the rest of us "soon," the contradictions of a government run by billionaires and CEOs is becoming ever more crystalized, as conditions for those at the bottom only continue to worsen.

cover photos via screenshots from DC Media Group

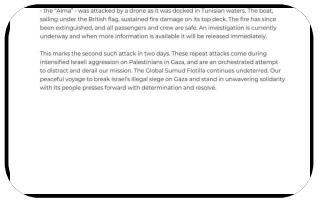
Freedom for the Five Prisoners of San Juan Cancuc, Chiapas

September 5, 2025

Statement calling for the freedom

a mass scale against Palestinians in Gaza, it is showing that wherever possible, it intends to carry out violence targeting those who express solidarity with Palestinians.

If you believe that Palestinians deserve to be treated as human beings, the Israeli military has you in its sights. Behave accordingly.



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers @CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 9

The judge in the #StopCopCity case says that he is likely to toss out the RICO charges on the grounds that they were improperly filed. That will not be the end of the ordeal, but it is an important step.

Background on the charges:

https://crimethinc.com/AtlantaRICO

Background on the movement itself:

https://crimethinc.com/CopCity2025

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers @CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 9

Insurrections occur in waves. We can trace the trail of sparks in Southeast Asia from the toppling of the president of Sri Lanka in 2022 to the 2024 uprising in Bangladesh to the revolt in Indonesia last month. Now the momentum has spread to Nepal.

Whatever happens next, this revolt should give pause to politicians and police who imagine that they can pillage and terrorize with impunity. Today, the money you obtain may insulate you from the consequences of your actions—but tomorrow?

None of these revolts have yet achieved all of their aims, but we can study all of them to see how they might. Likewise, the complicity of the Communist Party of Nepal in the massacre that catalyzed this revolt should remind all aspiring revolutionaries that even if you have "communist" in the name of your party, you won't be able to solve the problems of capitalism simply by wielding the violence of the state.

Background on the uprising in Sri Lanka:

https://crimethinc.com/GotaGoGama

Why you can't use the state to abolish capitalism:

https://crimethinc.com/government

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers @CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 9

Tonight, the Israeli military carried out a drone strike targeting a civilian vessel hundreds of miles away, solely on account of the passengers' intention to symbolically challenge the blockade that Israel is using to starve Gazans to death.

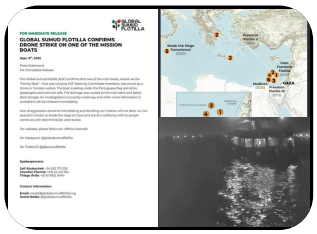
Although the Tunisian National Guard initially denied that a drone strike occurred, the Global Sumud Flotilla posted both video footage and eyewitness testimony that appears to confirm that the boat was, indeed, struck by a drone. It seems most likely that, once again, the denial of the Tunisian National Guard simply indicates the complicity of international institutions in the perpetration of genocide in Gaza.

The Israeli military has attacked every single flotilla protesting the blockade around Gaza since 2010.

The violence of the Israeli state is systematic, indiscriminate, continuous, and targets anyone who could interfere with their program of ethnic cleansing. Backed by Christian Zionists, they perpetrate this violence right up to the limit of what they can get away with. In addition to the tens of thousands they have murdered and the millions they have displaced, rendered homeless, tortured, terrorized, and imprisoned, this also makes life more dangerous for Jewish people everywhere.

There is no excuse for Zionism.

http://crimethinc.com/Gaza2024

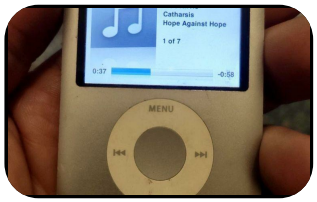


CrimethInc. Ex-Workers @CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 8

Don't rely on streaming services!

You can download the new Catharsis album—as well as dozens of other albums we've released over the years, all of which are free—from the CrimethInc. bandcamp page:

https://crimethinc.bandcamp.com/



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers @CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 7

As people prepare to confront the new ICE offensive in Chicago, it's worth revisiting the day of action less than three months ago when thousands took the streets against them.

https://crimethinc.com/ChicagoJune1

The lessons of that day should inform the next phase of resistance.

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers @CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 6

@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 15

Congratulations to the demonstrators who shut down the Vuelta a España in Madrid on September 14 in solidarity with Palestine.

The Israeli government is perpetrating genocide on a massive scale right now. We have a responsibility to interrupt every effort to normalize this.

https://crimethinc.com/Gaza2024

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu •
Sep 12

From our Brazilian correspondents:

Jair Bolsonaro and his allies have been convicted of attempting a coup after losing the 2022 elections. This is the first time those responsible for a coup attempt in Brazil have been convicted in a country that has suffered more than a dozen.

Modern autocrats have learned how to rig democracies in order to remain in power, as Orban, Putin, and Erdoğan have done and Trump is attempting to do. That's why the president of the US has imposed economic sanctions on Brazil and on individual judges to push for an amnesty.

The punishment of the coup plotters may suggest that it is still possible to stop these dictatorial plots via the courts. But Bolsonaro's greatest crimes were sabotaging health measures and using the pandemic as a weapon against the population, all of which remain unpunished.

Neither the preservation of the democratic system nor having the left in power actually solve our problems. In the state of Bahia, for example, governed by the Workers' Party for 20 years, police kill more people every year than they do in the entire United States.

The fascism that Bolsonaro and his allies represent won't be stopped by imprisoning him. Other forms of authoritarianism remain on the streets and in public office.

We have to break this cycle from below.

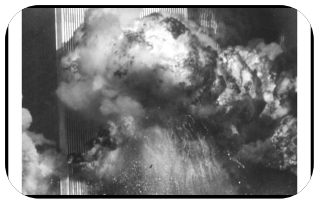
CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu •
Sep 11

This is the poster we released in response to the events of September 11, 2001.

It is truer than ever today.

In so many different ways.

https://crimethinc.com/posters/your-leaders-cant-protect-you



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu •
Sep 10

Centrist democrats must understand that any support or leeway that they offer the Trump administration or the police in the wake of the death of Charlie Kirk will not make them safer. The entire apparatus of "law and order" will be turned against them as well as against those it has always harmed. Their cowardice will have severe repercussions for everyone. It already is.

A Bernie bro tried to murder an entire park full of Republican lawmakers. A deranged left-winger attempted a mass shooting at the Family Research Council building. They tried to assassinate Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett before the Dobbs decision. Their demonic trans foot soldiers murdered Christian children while they worshipped at church and studied at their desks. They tried to blow Trump's head off on live TV after failing to bankrupt him and have him thrown in prison for life. Their race warriors spent an entire summer burning cities to the ground. Antifa will ambush and kill cops without remorse. They'll watch one of their own plow a vehicle into a Christmas parade and shrug and then tell you to calm down about it.

CNN and MSNBC and deranged left-wing personalities on BlueSky deliberately incite violence, and when it happens, they take the psychopath's route of mocking and gaslighting the victims.

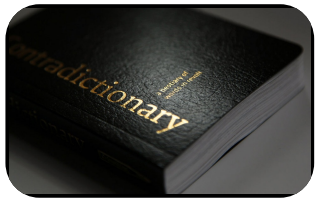
CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu •
Sep 10

At last, the new printing of the Contradictionary is available for order.

A Bestiary of Words in Revolt, the Contradictionary is a guide to the war in every word—unveiling the antithesis within every thesis and the conflict behind the façade of the commonplace.

https://store.crimethinc.com/collectior

"From our mother tongues to the letter of the law, our lives are made of language. Words write our world; they are the elementary particles of social relations. We can't escape their dominion, but we can play with them, we can subvert them, turning them against the forces that would fix us alongside them in a matrix of control. There is a war within every word, and this little lexicon is a legion rising in mutiny."



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
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Sep 10

In this video from Atlanta Community Press Collective, #StopCopCity RICO defendant Jamie Marsicano discusses how the explicit goal of this judicial persecution is to terrorize people out of engaging in mutual aid, solidarity, and other practices that are core to anarchism.

Thanks to mutual aid and solidarity, the RICO case has not succeeded in accomplishing that goal.

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu •
Sep 9

A second drone strike has occurred targeting another boat in the Global Sumud Flotilla.

Not only is the Israeli military intentionally committing genocide on

of the five prisoners of San Juan Cancuc, Chiapas from the working group No Estamos Todxs

To the EZLN.
To the CNI.
To our compañerxs of the Sixth.
To our compañerxs who defend human rights.

To those who fight against prisons, both from the inside and on the outside of them.
And, above all, to our five comrades imprisoned in San Juan Cancuc and their families.

More than three years ago, we learned of the injustice committed by the Mexican state and this bad government when they arbitrarily detained our five comrades from San Juan Cancuc. A few months after their arrest, we had the honor of beginning to accompany them. It has been more than three years of getting to know them and their families; of having deep conversations; of sharing Sunday meals and laughter; of listening to their dreams shattered since they were imprisoned; of feeling anger, but also hope. Throughout this time, they have shown us the steadfastness of their quest for justice and the dignity of their struggle for freedom.

We have to state clearly: we have never doubted their innocence. Their real "crime" in the eyes of the bad government is being poor, indigenous, and, above all, defenders of the land and territory. Over the past three years, we have witnessed the bad government's constant contempt for them. They have faced two trials riddled with violations of due process, demonstrating that this government does not seek justice. Their judicial process is a clear example of what has been denounced for years: the fabrication of guilt, a key part of a system where the "justice" of the Mexican state produces its own guilty parties, in which it is no longer necessary to commit a crime to be accused, detained, and sentenced.

During these years of accompanying and fighting for the freedom of our five comrades, we have opened up different fronts: legal, political, and organizational. The demand for justice has been taken to different authorities and locations. As a result, in September 2023, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention visited Mexico and Chiapas. After receiving information from various sources, the Working Group issued an opinion requesting that the Mexican government immediately release our five comrades; grant them the effective right to compensation for damages; and conduct a thorough investigation of the responsible authorities, in accordance with international law. The struggle on all these fronts continues.

That said, the purpose of these words that arise from our collective and militant heart is to echo up there, where contempt for those of us who live, organize, and fight down here is nested: we will not stop standing together and fighting alongside our imprisoned comrades and their families. Each day that passes is one day less of justice, one more day of separation between our comrades and their families, and one more day that we will continue to fight. Their innocence has already been proven time and time again. More and more voices are crying out for justice; organizations, collectives, and individuals in many corners of the world are joining this cry. Let it be clear: we will not stop fighting for a single day until we see our comrades free.

We invite everyone listening to join this struggle, in whatever way, time, and form suits each person, organization, or collective. We also want to let you know that in the coming days we will share new proposals for action. Therefore, we ask you to stay tuned to the campaign for the freedom of our five comrades.

We know that what is happening to them is not an isolated case. Prisons are always full of those of us who live at the bottom of the pyramid, while those at the top are never to be seen there. That is why we continue to strive for other forms of justice and for the end of prisons.

Cheers.

Sincerely,

No Estamos Todxs Working Group

"Down with prison walls"

Translated by Schools for Chiapas

In Contempt #56: DFW Support Committee on Resisting Repression, Casey Goonan Launches Hunger Strike, Reports of Uprising at Alligator Alcatraz

September 3, 2025

In this column, we present our monthly roundup of political prisoner, prison rebel, and repression news, happenings, announcements, action and analysis. Packed in as always are updates, fundraisers, and birthdays.

There's a lot happening, so let's *dive right in!*

Feature: Interview with Dallas Fort Worth Support Committee on Pushing Back Against Repression

We we reported in last month's column, a wave of repression has hit the DFW region of Texas, following a noise demo outside of an ICE facility in July. As a recent statement from the DFW chapter of the National Lawyers Guild wrote about the case:

> On July 4th, a noise demonstration took place outside of the ICE Prairieland Detention Center in Texas. What was a typical pro-immigrant protest has turned into a massive federal investigation, with 16 defendants now facing criminal charges. The National Lawyers Guild (NLG), the Dallas-Fort Worth chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, the TexOma region of the NLG, the San Antonio Chapter of the NLG, and the Mass Defense Committee of the NLG stand in support of the Prairieland

Defendants.

Community members went to the Prairieland Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention center in Alvarado, Texas, to rally against ICE's violent and relentless attacks on immigrants, and to express solidarity with those imprisoned inside the detention center. There was a planned noise demonstration at the facility, where fireworks were used, and other loud noises were made. Making noise outside of jails is an extremely common form of protest, extending solidarity to those behind bars. As the rally went on, ICE agents called the local police department. After local police arrived, one officer claimed to have sustained a minor injury to his neck by what the state claims was a gunshot. In response, the government has arrested 16 people, some through raids and traffic stops. Yet, through all of the federal government's criminal complaints, only two people have been described as alleged shooters.

Due to unchecked state repression, people present at the noise demonstration are now facing decades of prison time and years of pre-trial detention, regardless of their actions or knowledge. For weeks, local and federal agents have terrorized friends and family members of those arrested at the rally, serving no-knock warrants and conducting widespread surveillance. Multiple people arrested were not even at the demonstration on July 4th. Most defendants remain detained without formal charges, without legal representation, and in limbo between state and federal jurisdiction. Finding attorneys has been extremely difficult given the incredibly repressive behavior of the government.

We are witnessing state repression in real time. It is clear that police and prosecutors hope that the deplorable conditions of imprisonment will break the defendants and compel cooperation under duress. State and federal agents are wielding their power to silence people who dissent, to terrify and deter the public from exercising their rights to protest, and to make an example of the Prairieland Defendants in order to quash anti-ICE speech. The government seems determined to criminalize everyone even remotely related to the July 4th rally, regardless of their level of involvement. The flurry of arrests and severe charges are meant to suppress political organizing and free speech.

Lawyers who have visited the defendants say Johnson County Jail's conditions are reprehensible. At least two defendants have been placed in solitary confinement without any explanation. One defendant was forced to clean the walls of feces left by a previously held prisoner. The defendants' ability to communicate with friends and family outside the jail has been restricted at least twice, without any notice or explanation. At least three of the defendants are being strip-searched regularly, even though they are in solitary confinement. Two of the defendants are vegan and were not fed appropriate food. The jail has denied multiple defendants necessary medical accommodations such as a basic pillow and blood pressure medication, resulting in serious pain and potentially lasting injury. Additionally, trans individuals have been dead-named and misgendered by the jail, the media, and their own state-appointed attorneys, even though their names have been legally changed to reflect their gender.

Making matters worse, the majority of the defendants are under federal investigations, yet are still being held on state charges. The state's actions reflect their aim to criminalize people who stand up to ICE's excesses. We have seen similar repression i n Atlanta, Georgia, Spokane, Washington, and Los Angeles, California. It is abominable to arrest and detain people simply for their proximity to an alleged offense, in the absence of probable cause. The state's case has failed to afford the defendants their due process and is a clear violation of their rights.

So far, a fundraiser has been launched to support those arrested, a zine has been made to print out and distribute, and a website has also been set up. Wanting to know more about the campaign to support those facing repression, we reached out for an interview with the DWF Support Committee.

IC: *Can you tell us about what's been happening in Texas this month?*

DFWSC: The month of July was really hard. The Trump administration and its FBI have been relentlessly terrorizing friends and family of the defendants across the Dallas-Fort Worth area, raiding their homes, and in one case, literally tackling them on the street and placing with a bag over their head in an attempt to force them to talk. The repression that we are experiencing is like nothing that we have dealt with before. This has also meant the total number of defendants has increased, mostly, it seems, following a manhunt for someone the state alleges was involved with the protest on July 4th. The total number of defendants we're aware of is now seventeen.

On the legal front, things remain at a standstill. In Texas, you can be held without being formally indicted on a case like this for at least 90 days, and until the federal government decides to move forward, they can leave people in detention limbo. We've heard lawyers call this "the speedy trial loophole," and it means defendants do not have access to federal public defenders; the few defendants who have been assigned state-level public defenders have been told by those very lawyers that they won't talk to the defendants until they are formally indicted by the state. Most defendants need to go the public defender route at this point because, given their charges, private lawyers are quoting extremely high retainer fees. It's a very stressful situation because people are really suffering in this shitty county jail with very minimal access to lawyers. It leaves us asking, Why is nothing moving? If the government thinks

have created a culture where kids grow up seeing them as a path towards fame and glory. Another consequence of how thoroughly the internet has flattened pop culture, politics, and real life violence. All of it now is just another meme you can participate in to go viral. Made even more confusing by a new nihilistic accelerationist movement that delights in muddying the waters for older people who still adhere to a traditional political spectrum. Many young extremists now believe in a much simpler binary: Order and chaos. And if you are spending any time at all trying to derive meaning from violent acts like this then you are, by definition, their enemy."

https://www.garbageday.email/p/charkirk-was-killed-by-a-meme

It's Going Down
@igd_news@kolektiva.social • Sep 9

On September 13th, people in #Toronto are mobilizing against a far-Right anti-immigrant rally taking place at the center of a historic anti-fascist mobilization in the 1930s: Christie Pits. Check out background here: https://itsgoingdown.org/from-ember-85-years-since-the-christie-pits-riot/

It's Going Down
@igd_news@kolektiva.social • Sep 9

This report states the crowd rallied in support of the roofers and brought them food. Video can be seen of around 6 masked agents leaving the scene as the crowd chants and screams at them. Photo of Border Patrol vehicle that had its tires slashed here: https://www.newsbreak.com/share/42ice-raid-in-rochester-stymied-as-2-workers-evade-arrest-200-residents-protest

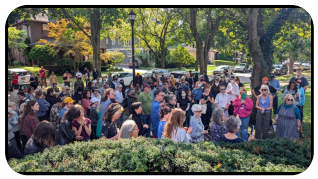
It's Going Down
@igd_news@kolektiva.social • Sep 9

"Federal immigration agents were seemingly forced to retreat from a roofing job site Tuesday in the Park Avenue neighborhood after being confronted by more than 100 protestors.

The group shouted "shame" and "Gestapo," and applauded as agents in the ICE-led action drove a Border Patrol SUV away on four flat tires, which had been slashed."

#Rochester #NewYork

https://www.wxxinews.org/local-news/2025-09-09/ice-agents-in-the-park-ave-neighborhood-spark-large-scale-protest



ICE agents in the Park Ave neighborhood spark large-scale protest
The group shouted "shame" and "Gestapo," and applauded as agents in the ICE-led action drove a Border Patrol SUV away on four fla...

It's Going Down
@igd_news@kolektiva.social • Sep 9

This weekend, tens of thousands across DC and Chicago took the streets, mobilizing against ICE and Trump's threats to flood city streets with the US military.

Check out our roundup here: https://itsgoingdown.org/tens-of-thousand-march-in-dc-and-chicago-against-ice-and-trump-occupation/

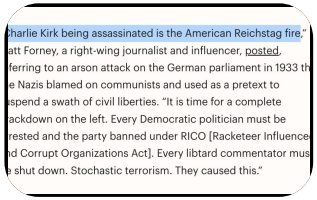
Tens of Thousands March in DC and Chicago Against ICE and Trump Occupation

On Saturday, September 6th, tens of thousands of DC and Chicago residents took to the streets against ICE and ongoing threats by the Trump a...

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 16

The crackdown that JD Vance and Stephen Miller are planning is not the result of anything that radicals or leftists did. Protestations of innocence and statistics about who is more violent are beside the point. They have been planning a crackdown regardless. It's part of their playbook.

If the crackdown takes place, it will not happen because of what we did, but because of what we *did not do.* But there's still time to act.


harlie Kirk being assassinated is the American Reichstag fire,"
att Forney, a right-wing journalist and influencer, posted,
ferring to an arson attack on the German parliament in 1933 th
e Nazis blamed on communists and used as a pretext to
spend a swath of civil liberties. "It is time for a complete
ackdown on the left. Every Democratic politician must be
rested and the party banned under RICO [Racketeer Influence
d Corrupt Organizations Act]. Every libtard commentator mus
e shut down. Stochastic terrorism. They caused this."

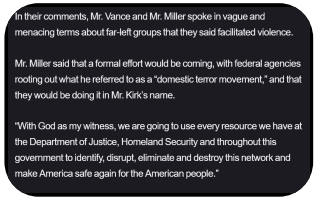
CrimethInc. Ex-Workers
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • Sep 15

JD Vance and Stephen Miller capitalizing on the shooting of Charlie Kirk to plan a crackdown on a wide range of their opponents is directly out of the textbook that Adolf Hitler used to consolidate power.

We must not simply identify this as fascism—we must act accordingly while there is still time.

One simple step is to make sure that every political faction that does not desire to live in an autocratic society understands that anything less than total resistance to the crackdown means complicity. Democratic politicians must not be permitted to sit on the fence. Their complicity must be clear to all.

https://crimethinc.com/saferinthefront


in their comments, Mr. Vance and Mr. Miller spoke in vague and
menacing terms about far-left groups that they said facilitated violence.
Mr. Miller said that a formal effort would be coming, with federal agencies
rooting out what he referred to as a "domestic terror movement," and that
they would be doing it in Mr. Kirk's name.
"With God as my witness, we are going to use every resource we have at
the Department of Justice, Homeland Security and throughout this
government to identify, disrupt, eliminate and destroy this network and
make America safe again for the American people."

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers

Logistics

- Plenty of parking with free lots close by.
- Mutiny sells some food and drinks. Local eating establishments abound including a vegan restaurant next door.
- Mutual aid bin on site for needs or donations. Plus a table of free goods.
- Masks strongly encouraged and will be provided by COVID Safe Colorado.

Sunday, August 31 from 11am - 7pm
Mutiny Information Cafe
3483 S Broadway in Englewood, CO

For questions or concerns contact: anarchistzinefair@proton.me

Final Straw: Malik Muhammad Speaks from Snake River in Oregon

August 21, 2025

Long-running anarchist radio show and podcast, *The Final Straw*, speaks with political prisoner Malik Muhammad.

This week, we're sharing a recent interview with anarchist prisoner Malik Muhammad. Malik is 3 years into a 10 year concurrent federal and Oregon sentence for alleged use of molotov cocktails during the 2020 uprising and is currently incarcerated at the Snake River Detention Facility, in the hole.

We speak about Malik's politicization, their case, realities and organizing in the Oregon prison system, keeping connections with the outside, Malik's writing and inspiration. You can find more about their case and at malikspeaks.noblogs.org and you can find their support's mastodon at https://kolektiva.social/@malikspea

You can write Malik via:

Malik Muhammad #23935744
Snake River Correctional Institution
777 Stanton Blvd
Ontario, OR 97914-8335

"Immigration agents shot and killed an unarmed 38-year-old father outside Chicago on Friday—and their initial narrative of events was quickly disproven by videos captured by witnesses." #Chicago #AbolishICE #MeltICE

https://unraveledpress.com/what-happened-to-silverio-villegas-gonzalez/

People are mobilizing in #California to demand the release of a woman who is has lived in the US for 30 years and was recently abducted at a routine check-in at an ICE office in San Francisco.

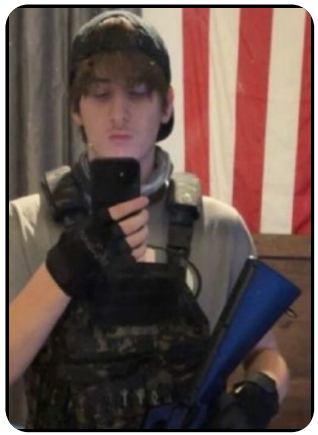
https://www.financialexpress.com/world-news/us-news/bring-grandma-home-ice-detains-73-yr-old-indian-origin-harjit-kaur-from-bay-area-locals-and-family-stage-protests/3977402/

Multi-millionaire pundit with a net-worth of over 10 million wants the government to murder you if you can't pay your rent.

https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-news/brian-kilmeade-fox-kill-homeless-mental-health-issues-1235426948/

Fox Host Says to 'Just Kill 'Em' While Discussing Homeless People Who Decline Help
'Fox and Friends' co-host Brian Kilmeade suggested euthanizing unhoused people with mental health issues who decline help, saying,...

We did a roundup of deadly far-Right and neo-Nazi mass shootings. The total number of people killed was 10, with over a dozen injured across multiple state:
https://bsky.app/profile/igd.bsky.socia



It's Going Down (@igd.bsky.social)

Reminder that several months ago, a white supremacist, Trump supporter, and according to one fellow student, a former member of Turning Point USA, shot up Florida State University (FSU), killing two people and injuring six in a mass shooting.

https://www.irishstar.com/news/us-news/fsu-shooting-witness-claims-gunman-35077595

FSU shooting witness claims gunman suspect was member of conservative club and used 'banned rhetoric' | Irish Star
The alleged shooter was shot by police after he refused to comply with officers orders and was taken to receive medical care, according to l...

Probably the best and most sober read on the current situation surrounding the shooting in Utah yet.

"We have let school shootings in America persist long enough that we

it has such a strong case, why not move forward? Honestly, at this point, we suspect the state prosecutors and the feds are stuck. They probably have no evidence of the outlandish claims they're making, and they want to memory hole our loved ones so that no one asks any questions and everyone subsequently forgets about them. But we won't let the state do that to our friends and family.

The big positive of the last few weeks has been the efforts to bring people together so that we can remain strong, both for ourselves and for our people inside. This includes making sure that other people know about their stories and what is happening to our loved ones. Isolation only furthers the state's power. We win when we stick together. The initial protest was an effort to show solidarity with those detained and brutalized by ICE, and so we on the outside need to follow that intention and show bravery and solidarity of our own.

IC: *Can you tell us the ways that people's rights have been violated following the raids? A recent update posted to GiveSendGo paints a very frightening picture, alleging that people have been offered bribes and denied legal counsel. What's going on?*

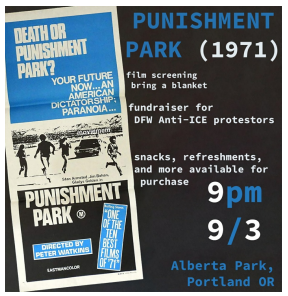
DFWSC: The state continues with their wave of force against the defendants and their families and friends. Johnson County Jail gives defendants the runaround by providing inconsistent information about the length of time defendants have supposedly lost access to commissary and in-person visits for being "on punishment." Defendants have informed us that they have been put in solitary with no explanation as to why. One reported that they were moved to a solitary unit where the cell walls were covered in feces, and they were given rags and made to clean the feces.

We truly do not know the full extent of the defendants' experiences in the jail because we are just now beginning to have more consistent contact with some of the defendants. Legal counsel has been minimal, and even then, the jail has even denied some lawyers visitation when they've gone to see the defendants. In Texas, you are required to file paperwork proving you can't afford a lawyer before a state attorney is assigned to you. Our people's paperwork has been denied for being apparently 'incomplete,' even though the jail itself instructed the defendants to fill out minimal information on the forms.

Friends have been detained and interrogated just for going to visit folks. Defendants are being violated by regular strip searches, sometimes even multiple within a day even when they're held in solitary. This process also includes correction officers ransacking people's cells, and in one case, taking a defendant's notes from their lawyer meetings. This is obviously a scare tactic intended to isolate the defendants from the outside world and leave them vulnerable.

IC: *What are the best ways for people to support the defendants at the moment?*

DWFSC: The GiveSendGo fundraiser is a great way for people who have extra funds to throw in for legal support. We also ask that people write to the defendants and show that there are people out there who do care and support them. We all know the horrors of the carceral system, so we need to let the defendants know they aren't alone in there.



Recent event in Portland, OR

Some people have started organizing letter writing events and fundraisers across the country. We really appreciate that kind of initiative, solidarity, and momentum. Our main goal right now is making sure our people inside know that they're loved and supported, and it's great to see so many people from around the world coming out to show that. We want to encourage more solidarity across struggles and geographies.

IC: *It seems like the case really hasn't made the news in wider anti-Trump circles, do you have any thoughts about why that is? Are there any requests you would make of people in terms of helping to publicize the situation?*

DWFSC: We think this is a test case for how the state enacts their repression of the left and liberation struggles moving forward. We already see that they have started moving and arresting people in the Pacific Northwest. But in terms of the larger media narrative, we don't really have a good answer on that. It's possible they don't want this to reach the public eye for a couple different reasons. They can see that people are already angry, that people are already standing up. Something like this depicted across mass media could inspire people to take more action or enrage more people that the state is suppressing protestors like this. The government wants to carry out its political repression as clandestinely as possible. They don't want to show how angry people are, they don't want the larger public to know that people are rising up, that people have the power to resist and protest their government, that normal people have the power to stand together and take action in the face of authoritarianism. It could also be just the brief nature of news cycle; now that the initial fantastical story has passed, the state hasn't released any more tantalizing evidence. They haven't released the video footage they allegedly have, they haven't moved forward with any legal process, they're just sitting on it. So there's a very real possibility the government is realizing they overplayed their hand and want to keep things in the confusing haze of the early days.

As for how people can spread the word about this situation, the best answer would be to talk about it: talk about it with your groups, your friends, your families. Share the story across social media platforms.

We're really grateful some folks have started making some graphics and posts about this situation. The main message to share is that the official government story makes no sense and that the real terror is the groups of armed masked officers kidnapping people off the street. This is something that doesn't have to be spoken about in purely leftist circles. This is a story of authoritarian oppression, and it won't stop with us.

IC: *It seems like there's a danger where on the one hand, there's a temptation to erase the militancy from a movement to appeal to liberal supporters, and then on the other hand, people can just glamorize images of militancy in a way that can actually let the state set the agenda by not questioning what really happened. Do you have any thoughts on how to avoid these traps?*

DWFSC: The fact of the matter is that we don't know what happened that night. With so little information like this, it can be an easy trap to fall into, to regurgitate the state's narrative. This is even more important when the claims in this case are so dubious. If you read the official complaints, you'll see how little evidence there is, and the fact is that we know our people were planning on coming home that night. We know that there was a noise demonstration planned, and we know that the reason people planned any form of resistance to ICE is because of the authoritarian policies of the state, not only here in Texas but across the country. When talking about this situation, speak to what we do know: 1) people were arrested for protesting the government and 2) the state lies. Regardless of what happened on July 4th, no one deserves the treatment the defendants have been subjected to, and this whole situation is an attempt to squash dissent and destroy the movement.

For information you can follow along with updates on the GiveSendGo fundraiser and on the website.

IC: *We've seen suggestions that two of the defendants are now cooperating - is there anything you can say about this, and how might it affect how support is organized going forward?*

Because of the way this case is being handled and how slow it's progressed on the legal front, it's really difficult to discern the full picture of information like that. However, if you read the federal complaints, you'll see some statements attributed to defendants, so it's likely that, in the heat of initial arrest, some defendants made choices that we on the committee think were a mistake. But we consider that type of mistake very different from "cooperating." For us "cooperating" means active and ongoing participation in the state building a case against other defendants. Everyone involved in the defense committee at this point is committed to solidarity, and we support people exercising their constitutional rights. This situation should be a good reminder to everyone else that the safest and smartest thing to say to the police is absolutely nothing. You have a right to remain silent, and you should use it.

IC: *Anything else you'd like to state?*

DWFSC: We are currently coordinating a day of solidarity at the 90-day mark of the defendants' arrests after the July 4th demo: Friday, October 3rd, 2025. The 90-day mark is significant because under Texas law, the defendants can only be held in jail for 90 days without an indictment.

Adam King, the sheriff of the Johnson County Jail, where most of the defendants are being held, was arrested and faces felony sexual harassment and retaliation charges as of August 28, 2025.

On August 7th, seventeenth person, Susan Kent, was arrested in relation to this case. Dario Sanchez was also indicted at the state level, unlike all other defendants with state charges.

Our fundraiser has also surpassed $30,000. All defendants have been assigned state public defenders or retained counsel at the state level. However, there has been no movement in the federal cases.

Defendants' horrible jail conditions have continued however and many remain in solitary or segregated units away from the general population. Defendants are facing mandatory strip searches every time they leave their cells. To combat these conditions, we organized a few phone zaps targeting Johnson County Judge Christopher Boedeker, which seemed to reduce the number of strip searches to which defendants were being subjected.

Since this interview was conducted, the Defense Committee have issued a further statement:

We are aggrieved to report that the Johnson County Sheriff's Office has arrested another member of the Dallas-Fort Worth community in relation to the July 4th Prairieland ICE Detention Center protest, bringing the total number of defendants in the case to seventeen. This person, Susan Kent, was also a member of the DFW Support Committee, the defense committee for the Prairieland Defendants. Like the rest of the defendants, their bond amount is set to an absurd and prohibitive $10 million dollars. We denounce this escalation by the state in its desperate attempts to criminalize people showing solidarity with those being kidnapped by ICE and to undermine dissent against rising authoritarianism.

From the beginning, this case has been rife with inconsistencies, unbelievable accusations, and violence against the defendants and their loved ones. We do not know the state's allegations against Susan, but we believe this arrest is part of the state's attempt to terrorize the residents of Dallas-Fort Worth. To arrest someone well over a month after the July 4th event signals the state's dogged attempt to tear through this community. Susan was actively working to support the defendants, to advocate for them to get the best legal defense possible and encourage them to exercise their constitutional rights. Forcing this person to endure the same horrific conditions as the defendants they were working to support fits the Sunday, September 21st, 2025 at 2:00 pm in solidarity and conjunction with runs that will take place in cities and prison yards across the country at the same time. Stay after to enjoy a vegan BBQ, served taking every COVID precaution!

REGISTER AS, OR SPONSOR, A PARTICIPANT

To raise our goal of $4,500 we *need* your support.

* **Promote** - print and distribute flyers and posters to friends and local businesses, your doctor's office, laundromat, food co-op, wealthy benefactor, et cetera.

* **Run/walk/bike/roll** in the 5k - We need participants who can run/walk/bike/roll the 5k and are able to collect financial pledges to offer as donations to the run. Download the brochure, complete with registration and sponsor form right here.

* **Volunteer** for the run - We need folks who are willing to promote the run and bike the route as street medics.

* **Donate online** at venmo @nycabc

* **Donate** to the run/sponsor a participant - If you are not able to attend, but want to support this fundraising effort, please mail donations to:

NYC ABC
Post Office Box 110034
Brooklyn, New York 11211

Your donation of $20 or more entitles you to the celebratory picnic after the event.

Each year, we split proceeds between the Anarchist Black Cross Federation's Warchest Program and a local organization. This year, local funds are going to the legal defense for Priscilla Grim.

The Warchest Program: The Anarchist Black Cross Federation (ABCF) has initiated a program designed to send monthly checks to those Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War who have been receiving insufficient, little, or no financial support during their imprisonment. The Warchest program was initiated in November 1994. Its purpose is to collect monthly funds from groups and individual supporters, and send that money to Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War (PP/POW) via monthly checks. From its inception, the ABCF warchest has dispensed over $235,000 to political prisoners. Currently, there are 13 imprisoned comrades who receive a monthly stipend as part of the program; they are Abdul Azeez, Alex Stokes, Hanif Bey, Jamil Al-Amin, Jessica Reznicek, Joe-Joe Bowen, Kamau Sadiki, Peppy, Malik Smith, Marius Mason, Oso Blanco, Ronald Reed, and Xinachtli (FKA Alvaro Luna Hernandez).

Priscilla Grim Legal Defense: In August 2023, an unprecedented indictment against 61 individuals involved with Stop Cop City was launched- the largest political RICO trial in U.S. history. This sweep- ing and punitive move targets folks associated with the movement to Stop Cop City—a militarized police training compound planned for Atlanta's Weelaunee Forest, including Priscilla Grim, a long-time cultural worker and media organizer. supportpriscilla.org

For more info and location go here.

Announcing the Denver Anarchist Zine Fest

August 21, 2025

Announcing the Denver Anarchist Zine Fest on August 31st. For more info, go here.

Please join us in the mile-high, sanctuary city that is aching for liberation. On this day we wish to foster conversations and activities that promote: healing, appreciation, awareness, preparedness, and relationships unique and common to all of our struggles. There will be more than 20 tables of anarchist and other zines, as well as seven workshops and talks.

Schedule

11:30 - Ikce Wicasa: Rematriating Ways, Seeding Futures on stolen land
12pm - Dani (Boulder Food Not Bombs): Building New Worlds
1pm - Angel H.H.: Obstacles of being a bipoc felon in the transgender community
2pm - Molly/Molecule (FoCo Street Medics): Decolonizing Therapy
3pm - Self-Defense Techniques
4pm - Alexei Wood: Lessons on antifascist and anti-capitalist resistance at DC inauguration 2017
5pm - Eric King (Bread and Roses Law): Why prison support is necessary in the fight against fascism
6pm - Cripple Punk Alliance: How to create inclusive events

The Anarchist Zine Fest is free, open to everyone, and all ages.

ANARCHIST ZINE FEST
MUTINY CAFE AND INFOSHOP
ENGLEWOOD, CO
Free, all ages, open to the public!
Sunday, August 31
11am-7pm
Over 20 tables with anarchist and other zines on a wide variety of topics including DIY herbalism, anarcha-feminism, black liberation, community defense, and much more!
Schedule
11:30 Ikce Wicasa: Rematriating Ways, Seeding Futures on stolen land
12:00 Dani (Boulder Food Not Bombs): Building New Worlds
1:00 Angel H.H.: Obstacles of being a bipoc felon in the transgender community
2:00 Molly/Molecule (FoCo Street Medics): Decolonizing Therapy
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4:00 Alexei Wood: Lessons on antifascist and anticapitalist resistance at DC inauguration 2017
5:00 Eric King (Bread and Roses Law): Why prison support is necessary in the fight against fascism
6:00 Cripple Punk Alliance: How to create inclusive events
3483 S Broadway, Englewood, CO

Accessibility

- Over half of the tables will be at ground level. Some tables and most presentations will be on the basement level which is only accessible by stairs.
- There will be a live stream of the talks and workshops at the event if requested and only with permission of the presenter.
- Designated area for children but no supervision services.
- ASL services available upon request.
- Some literature will be in Spanish, but no translation services.

Carolina, the recovery after Hurricane Helene included not only supply distribution but also a disaster court watch aimed at stopping storm-triggered evictions. Tornadoes swept across Missouri, Kentucky, and Arkansas, hitting Black neighborhoods and neglected rural towns especially hard. In St. Louis, mutual aid crews mapped unmet needs, created tool libraries, and trained new volunteers in trauma care, chainsaw safety, and crisis logistics, making preparation itself a form of resistance.

In the Gulf South, hurricane readiness has become daily life. Crews in Florida, the Carolinas, and Louisiana stocked go-kits, ran radio and mesh network trainings, and offered workshops in blackout preparation and tenant protection. In Tampa, the Freedom Center continued as a vital hub, meeting the ongoing effects of last year's storms while holding space that is deeply rooted in movement history and committed to radical, intersectional practice.

Further west, fire season began months early, with January wildfires sweeping through Los Angeles County. Mutual aid crews distributed N95 masks, CR boxes, and air filters, focusing on unhoused encampments and renters in industrial zones where toxic ash blanketed everything. The losses were not only burned-down houses but motel rooms made unlivable by smoke, families evicted after missing work, and children developing asthma in windowless apartments. When FEMA failed to arrive and landlords disappeared, mutual aid showed up, offering care without paperwork or conditions.

Puerto Rico's communities continue to resist by building their own solutions. Locally run solar rigs and battery banks now keep water pumps, refrigerators, and communications systems alive. DIY repair trainings ensure this infrastructure remains in the hands of residents rather than the state, turning what might appear to be charity into an assertion of autonomy.

Beyond the borders of the so-called US, comrades in the Philippine Archipelago faced disaster layered with grief when a battery fire destroyed a home and mutual aid base in Cubao Quezon City, and injured a child. Crews responded with medical care, building supplies, and collective mourning, while also laying the groundwork for a Search and Rescue program that aims for national certification to bypass state gatekeeping and bring aid directly to the people. Soon after, a massive typhoon hit Las Piñas, collapsing bridges and cutting power to precarious urban neighborhoods. MADR-SR and local allies delivered medicine, food, bedding, and trauma care, while distributing solar kits and water filters to sustain communities for the long term. Local youth brigades and neighborhood organizers established full-scale hubs marked by defiance, dignity, and persistence.

Even a candle lit in such darkness remains light. We live in a time of permanent disaster, but also of permanent refusal. The state arrives late, if at all, while the NGO complex insists that people wait their turn. We cannot afford to wait.

Across our networks, people mow lawns so neighbors are not fined, repair brake lights so friends avoid police stops, and train in water purification, radio, trauma care, and logistics. We prepare for the next storm because we know it will come, and we refuse to cling to a "normal" that was always the crisis. Our meetings take place in basements and parking lots, in cul-de-sacs and forests, across lands and waters. We are not building empires but futures, and in those futures no one is disposable.

This is not a call for volunteers but an invitation to join something ancient and ongoing. We are the living network, with calloused hands that carry the work forward, with open doors that welcome those who arrive, with names remembered and spoken aloud, and with a flame that refuses to be extinguished. We are not going anywhere.

Announcing the 2025 Running Down the Walls in Brooklyn, NY

August 21, 2025

Announcing the 2025 Running Down the Walls event in Brooklyn, NY. For more Running Down the Walls events, go here.

WHAT: Running Down the Walls - 5k Run/Walk/Jog/Bike/Hang
WHEN: 2:00-7:00pm, Sunday, September 21st, 2025
WHERE: Prospect Park- Lincoln Road/East Lake Drive, east of the Terrace Bridge (see the below map for exact location)
COST: $20 registration, participants encouraged to get sponsors (includes vegan BBQ afterwards, with COVID precautions for serving!) Donate at paypal.me/nycabc or venmo.com/nycabc

NYC Anarchist Black Cross (NYC ABC) is excited to announce Running Down the Walls 2025-the 26th Anniversary of Running Down the Walls since it was started by ABCF-LA. We are looking very forward to gathering as a community. For the last couple of years, we've had an amazing time and successful fundraisers. Please stay tuned to our website, sign up for our newsletter, and follow us on instagram (@nycabc) or bluesky (nycabc.bsky.social) for updates.

Every year, prisoners and supporters of political prisoners organize solidarity events with Running Down the Walls. In previous years, we've had runs in Albuquerque (NM), Arcata (CA), Ashland (OR), Bellefonte (PA), Boston (MA), Buffalo (NY), Chico (CA), Denver (CO), Elmore (AL), Inez (KY), Los Angeles (CA), Marion (IL), Minneapolis (MN) New York (NY), USP Navosta (TX), Pelican Bay (CA), Phoenix (AZ), Tucson (AZ), Seattle (WA), and Toronto, Ontario. This year we hope to expand the amount of runs in prisons and other cities, as well as increase the amount of funds raised for community projects. NYC ABC's goal with this year's run is $4,500. You can donate online by going to venmo.com/nycabc: @nycabc

This year's run will take place on

state's tactics of repression in this case: brutalizing defendants' family members, conducting violent raids, subjecting defendants to solitary confinement, incessantly strip searching defendants, and other cruelty, such as forcing a defendant to clean feces off the walls of their cell. This case is emblematic of the outrageous arrests happening around the country, including in Spokane, Washington, and Portland, Oregon, as well as the unnecessary federalization of police in Washington DC, all while legal cases against protestors in Los Angeles are falling apart due to lack of evidence. These actions by the state are not meant to seek justice or truth. They instead intend to terrify us and fracture solidarity among our movements. But we won't let them succeed.

Our friends and loved ones sought to show support for immigrants and ICE detainees facing brutal violence at the hands of the state. The Prairieland defendants are not terrorists. The real terrorists are the ICE agents kidnapping people off the street, destroying families and communities. We are devastated at Susan's arrest, but we are not deterred. We call on all those who support resistance and seek a freer world to stand up against this brutality and repression. For more information about the Prairieland defendants and how you can help raise funds for their defense, please go to dfwdefendants.wordpress.com or donate to the crowd fundraiser at givesendgo.com/supportDFWprot

As well as the main fundraiser, a second has been set up to support the family of Maricela Rueda, and the Screwston Anti-Fascist Committee are now selling t-shirts and posters to fundraise for the defendants. You can find an updated version of the Prarieland Defendants support zine here, and another zine has been made specifically to highlight the case of Des Revol, along with a printable design for "zines are not a crime - free Des" buttons. You can find more about Des' case at his Instagram.

Casey Goonan Kicks Off Hunger Strike in Solidarity with T. Hoxha

In the UK, Palestine-related pre-trial prisoner T Hoxha is on a hunger strike over her conditions, and has been joined by US prisoner Casey Goonan, who's next hearing is scheduled for September 23rd. The UK continues to see widespread repression against the Palestine solidarity movement in the wake of the banning of Palestine Action.

For a deep-dive on the hunger strike, check out a recent interview with *Millennials Are Killing Capitalism* here. A recent post to social media reported:

> An immediate transfer of care for T Hoxha to a hospital in Northampton Healthcare Trust must be actioned. It is now day 21 of her hunger strike and medical neglect by your prison has since resulted in fever, persistent headache on the left side of her head, vomiting after taking vitamins, continued jaw pain, shedding hair and skin discoloration. Her condition is now considered in the "danger zone" by an advance nurse practitioner.
>
> That an advanced nurse practitioner was not made aware of her case until Day 17 is incredibly improper practise for the treatment of prisoners on hunger strike, failing to begin a food refusal log until Day 5 of the hunger strike and failing to appropriately maintain this since as well as, the failure to provide consistent regular medical attention, providing electrolyte sachets and monitoring have proved HMP Peterborough to be incapable of fulfilling their duty of care to prisoners in their custody.
>
> T has simply demanded her rights to fair treatment as an unconvicted prisoner of conscience. We are aware of the methods by which her rights are being removed by your prison as means of intimidation and isolation.
>
> Another Sodexo prison, HMP Bronzefield, is currently in the media and public discourse due to two deaths, an assault and forced excessive lock up of prisoners last month. Given this, I am certain that HMP Peterborough will be soon also be investigated for direct medical neglect and abuse of authority in light of the seriousness of this matter.
>
> The medical necessity of socialisation is a fact. Depriving T of the right to maintain correspondence with her community, or prevent her contribution to the improvement of your prison through work and classes indicates a concerted effort by the prison, you, to silence and allow physical harm to come to a prisoner in your care.

For a toolkit on how to support the hunger strike, go here. Casey also issued the following statement upon launching his hunger strike in solidarity, writing:

> Today I learned about T Hoxha, a Pal Action prisoner in the UK who is on day 16 of their hunger strike at HMP Peterborough. As of 4pm eastern time, August 26, 2025, 2 out of 3 of her demands have been met, but she is still on strike to demand that the prison release the mail they have been withholding from her.
>
> As captives imprisoned for our participation in the Palestinian liberation movement in the west, we have a responsibility to each other across borders to pursue

our lives in prison with the same steadfastness as the Palestinian Prisoners movement held captive in 'Israeli' prisons.

The states we have been captured by are the enablers of the Zionist entity's accelerated genocide of Palestinians, as well as the ongoing genocides of black and indigenous people who's lands they continue to occupy.

As the Western left continues to move from crisis to crisis, avoiding their responsibilities to Palestine, we are all that we have. By we I am referring to people facing repression for their support for Palestine, the people who are truly sacrificing. Such as T Hoxha, who has suffered through 16 days of starvation just to get her mail.

The Palestine solidarity movement in the west cannot abandon people like her who have risked
their lives and continue to do so in resistance to the intolerable condition of genocide.

As of today one of my cellmates and I are on hunger strike at Santa Rita jail until her demands are met.

Solidarity with T Hoxha and all prisoners of the Palestine Solidarity movement!

Raze the walls!
Liberate all prisoners of the settler empire!
Casey Goonan

For more updates and ways to support Casey, go here. Check out a zine about the hunger strike here.

Black August and Week of Solidarity with Anarchist Prisoners

August sees two major dates in the prisoner solidarity calendar, Black August and the International Week of Solidarity with Anarchist Prisoners.

Texas prisoner Kwaneta Harris recently wrote on the importance of Black August for *Truthout,* and *The Final Straw Radio* interviewed Oregon uprising prisoner Malik Muhammad, who discussed their Black August practices and experiences.

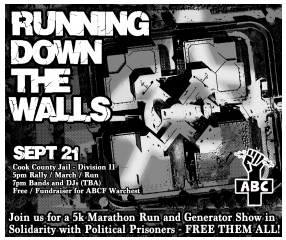
Interview with anarchist prisoner, Malik Muhammad, serving a 10 year concurrent Oregon & Federal sentence for participation in the 2020 uprising speaks on organizing in prison, solitary confinement, communication with the outside, #BlackAugust & morethefinalstrawradio.noblogs.or

— The Final Straw Radio (@thefinalstrawradio.bsky.social) 2025-08-17T14:20:28.112Z

For the Week of Solidarity, *The Final Straw* interviewed a participant in the new Solidarity International project, which brings together a number of groups around the world including Blue Ridge and Philadelphia ABCs, and organized a discussion with people involved in supporting prisoners held in Belarus, Russia and the UK.

As yet there's not a full list of events held during the week yet, but events confirmed so far include Berlin, Dresden, Potsdam, and Hamburg, Germany, and Bristol, UK.

Running Down the Walls


RUNNING DOWN THE WALLS
SEPT 21
ABC
Join us for a 5k Marathon Run and Generator Show in Solidarity with Political Prisoners - FREE THEM ALL!

September 21st will see the 26th annual Running Down the Walls events happening all over. So far, events have been confirmed in New York, NY, Los Angeles, CA, Eugene, OR, Chicago, IL, Bloomington, IL, Lowell, MA, Portland, OR, and Miami, FL. A Pushing Down the Walls event (burpee contest) will also be taking place on November 8th in Southern California.

Mumia Abu-Jamal Medical Alert

There's an urgent medical alert for long-term Black Liberation prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, whose eyesight is rapidly deteriorating due to medical neglect. His support team write:

Mumia's eyesight is deteriorating at an alarming rate.

An independent expert ophthalmologist has confirmed the progression of his eye disease by analyzing Mumia's most recent eye exams. She reports that he needs surgery and medically necessary treatment "immediately" or faces the possibility of "permanent blindness."

Mumia's vision has plummeted from 20/30 with glasses in 2024 (near normal) to 20/200 today—legally blind—because the **Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PA DOC)** failed to adequately monitor his vision and delayed his urgently necessary medical treatment and surgery. The PA DOC has known since at least March of 2025 that Mumia needed eye surgery. Exams from 2024 - 2025 showed a sharp deterioration, demanding immediate intervention. Despite knowing the urgency, they waited until July to act and then pushed surgery off to an unspecified date in September.

Mumia believes he now suffers

to subjugate me has made it her hobby to make my life hell through subjection to stalking, constant surveillance, colluding with neo-Nazis to share information about my family, and consistent deliberate mismanagement/misfilings of my cases resulting in extended red tape, and blatant denial of my right to speedy trials. This latest indictment, earned through state-sanctioned perjury to a grand jury, is just an extension of the facade this abomination of governance must maintain to enforce the cruelty of their agenda, not to mention the innumerable thousands of dollars of taxpayer funding they will expend yet again to lose. Nevertheless, I surrendered to the Tarrant County Sheriff to face these lies head-on.

August is a joyous month filled with all of my children's birthdays, the new beginnings of settling them into school, and my wedding anniversary with my beautiful wife. Instead of meeting this month with the joy it deserves, we are yet again confronting the existential dread of the full weight of this regime. Still though none of this has ever been about me, I am resolved to be impounded in these colonial chains once more with my head held high and a clear conscience.

I have not been a Quaker all of my life, nor even all of this decade. But it is the principles of Truth, Equality, and Peace that lead me here. If you have known me for more than a week you've heard me harken these words to you ad nauseum so forgive me once more.. But I lean on the early friends to express these vital principles to life and the way they are called to these testimonies for which they were prepared to suffer and even die. As one of my few heroes once said:

"I joyfully entered prisons as palaces, telling mine enemies to hold me there as long as they could: and in the prisonhouse I sung praises to my God, and esteemed the bolts and locks put upon me as jewels, and in the Name of the eternal God I always got the victory, for they could keep me there no longer than the determined time of my God." - William Dewsbury 1688

The social order of this world is designed to paralyze us into inaction by the deluge of unrelenting dread but there is a new world struggling to be born. Though I surrender my body once more, locked and entombed among the men that wander aimless among the chains and bars, my spirit will never surrender to a master in human form. My motivations lie between myself and my God and it is for him I continue this fight against the hierarchal structure the modern world. We **are** stronger together and it is due to this strength that the mechanisms of power continue to throw absolutely every weapon in their arsenal at me. Please support me and my family in this difficult time, lend us your blessings of strength. Any donations will be used to bring the fight back to these ghouls in their sacrilegious theatre of injustice."

To support Christ "Big Tex" G, go here.

No One Left Behind: A Mid-Year Report from the Frontlines of Hope

August 21, 2025

Mutual Aid Disaster Relief reports on autonomous mutual aid organizing in the face of the growing climate crisis.

We do not wait for help; we become it. Without permission, we build in the ashes, along the flood plains, and across the fault lines. Disasters keep coming, and we return again and again, not as saviors but as neighbors, kin, and fellow travelers carrying tarps and solar rigs, muck boots and coloring books, chainsaws, water filters, and a stubborn belief in collective survival.

The work is not bound to the arrival of cameras or the fading of sirens but grows slowly and steadily, call by call and door by door, shaped by people who know abandonment firsthand and refuse to abandon anyone else. Through crisis we organize, through grief we act, and through the daily practice of building with what we have, we remind one another that survival is a shared responsibility.

This year's storms have been relentless. July alone brought more than 300 recorded flood events across the United States, a scale of devastation that cannot be ignored. At the same time, political sabotage has stripped away early warning systems, dismantled weather infrastructure, and left disaster response increasingly privatized and militarized. In the NC Triangle, unprecedented rainfall sent the Haw River surging and displaced hundreds, especially in Black and Latinx neighborhoods long denied basic protections. Triangle Mutual Aid responded with dry socks, hot meals, cleanup gear, and support for those facing FEMA denials and landlord neglect. In Kerr County, Texas, floods tore through working-class neighborhoods, claiming dozens of lives, including children at a summer camp. Austin Mutual Aid organized shelter support, deployed cooling stations, and distributed grief kits and hygiene supplies to families who had lost nearly everything, many of whom had no official warning before the water rose. In Wheeling, West Virginia, floodwaters filled basements, collapsed roads, and submerged entire neighborhoods. Community members and their allies took up the work of mucking homes, checking on neighbors door to door, and running supply hubs with mold abatement materials, cleaning kits, and home-cooked meals, stepping in where official systems stalled.

Across Appalachia, floods and tornadoes compounded the devastation that communities were already facing. But the people hauled water, mucked homes, delivered filtration systems, and ran ATV supply routes into cut-off hollers, while also sustaining elder check-ins, mold remediation, and tenant defense efforts. In Southern West Virginia, towns like Pineville and Madison saw catastrophic flooding this spring, yet residents organized to power phones, distribute supplies, and repair roads block by block. In Western North

Alissa Azar: As I mentioned earlier, things have definitely shifted and continue to evolve. Right now, there are still ongoing daily demonstrations, with certain days or nights bringing out bigger crowds, sometimes specific communities responding to flyer campaigns or calls to action. But honestly, I think a lot of people are feeling a bit tapped out in regard to the demonstrations currently happening. I deeply respect those who can't stand the idea of inaction, but there's also something to be said about strategy and remembering this is a long game.

So many folks have faced extreme violence and been charged for simply standing on a sidewalk across from ICE. That kind of repression, combined with insane levels of surveillance, makes showing up feel unsafe and unsustainable for many. At the same time, a lot of people just want to do something; they're frustrated, angry, and looking for ways to resist. That's totally understandable, too. But I also think people want to be strategic. They're asking: What actually makes an impact right now? What's worth the risk? That kind of reflection isn't a sign of people backing down; it's a sign of movements maturing and adapting.

Photo via Alissa Azar

Where things go from here is hard to predict because everything is changing so fast, and tensions are escalating quickly. What I do know is that resistance has to keep adapting... our tactics, our strategies, our ways of organizing all have to evolve as the situation changes. And I think that's exactly what many people are doing; finding new ways to resist and defend our communities, getting ready for what's to come, and strengthening mutual aid networks.

IGD: *Where can people follow your work?*

Alissa Azar: I finally launched my website, www.wewillfree.us, where I will be posting more articles and photos, never behind a paywall. People can also follow along on my socials:

Mastodon:
kolektiva.social/@alissaazar

Instagram:
www.instagram.com/alissa.azar

Bluesky:
bsky.app/profile/alissaazar.bsky.soc

cover photo via Alissa Azar

Outlaw: Non-Profits & Repression with Veryl & Dylan

August 21, 2025

The *Outlaw Podcast* speaks with Veryl Pow and Dylan Rodriquez to speak about state repression and the role of liberal counter-insurgency.

Veryl Pow and Dylan Rodriguez join *Outlaw* for a rich discussion about non-profits and state repression-from the liberal non-profit taming of the rebellious '60s to the fascist gutting of those same non-profits today.

Veryl is a movement lawyer at the Sustainable Economies Law Center, and Dylan is a organizer, academic, founding member of Critical Resistance.

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Cover Image by Mon M.

Intro & Outro Music: Tortuguita by Brass Tapestry (ft. Rev. Keyanna Jones)

Who's Tortuguita? Tort was an anarchist forest defender part of the movement to Stop Cop City in Atlanta. They were murdered by Georgia State Patrol Troopers in their tent in Weelaunee Forest on January 18th, 2023. Some memories of them are compiled here.

"My Spirit will Never Surrender": Message from Chris "Big Tex" as Fight Against Repression Continues

August 21, 2025

Update from Chris "Big Tex" G on ongoing fight against repression in Texas.

Despite winning in court in 2024, Chris "Big Tex," continues to face legal repression, resulting from charges stemming from defense of a community event targeted by white supremacists. A recent letter posted by his support crew from Chris wrote:

"This morning, Wednesday August 13th, I surrendered to the Tarrant County Jail on a warrant for yet another bogus retaliatory charge. I have been charged with allegedly interfering with public duty, resisting arrest, and evading detention. These three charges were brought against me TWO AND A HALF YEARS after the fact. This malicious political prosecution is just the result of the state's anger at my winning a full acquittal in my felony trial last year. The constant effort this farcical prosecutors office must maintain to repress is not sustainable and the cracks are starting to show.

I was targeted and arrested in 2023 for putting my body between the attendees of a drag show and neo-Nazis who sought to spit on, threaten, abuse, and harm them in the name of so-called Christian love. I am no stranger to the swamp of the propaganda machine and their allies in the North Texas Cop-o-sphere. The fascist press and their clout-chasing snitch collaborators have branded me with absurdly laughable monikers for five years in the name of clicks and the vampiric bureaucrats have gobbled up and utilized these lies to justify their self-serving agenda. These paper tigers cannot function without an enemy to hate.

The special prosecutor appointed from *"diabetic retinopathy"* stemming from a diabetic coma that he endured after being given an improper and unmonitored dose of steroids for a skin disease in 2015. Mumia asserts that the PA DOC is **"slow-walking [him] to blindness"** in 2025 - another egregious case of the prison's medical neglect, medical harm, and inability to treat Mumia's medical needs.

Court records already document this pattern: (a) negligence in monitoring lab reports that led to the diabetic coma, and (b) deliberate denial and delay of his hepatitis C treatment that left him with cirrhosis.

For information on a recent phone-zap and how to apply pressure to support Mumia, go here.

Editor's Note: *After this column was first published, it was announced that a "message was just received from Mumia's attorney Noel Hanrahan on Sept. 2: As a result of widespread and persistent pressure, Mumia finally received cataract 2 laser surgery on his left eye today and can now see very clearly. But we must remain vigilant, consistent, and make sure that he sees a retinal specialist to treat his additional diagnosis that threatens his eyesight."*

Political Prisoner News

Due to ongoing mail digitization programmes, there are new addresses for political prisoners Fran Thompson and Ronald Reed:

Nebraska Correctional Center for Women
State of Nebraska Department of Correctional Services
Fran Thompson #93341
Box 247
Phoenix, MD 21131

Ronald Reed #219531
Minnesota Correctional Facility - Lino Lakes
Post Office Box 247
Phoenix, Maryland 21131

You can find the latest version of the NYC ABC listing of political prisoners here.

Former political prisoner Eric King recently appeared on the *Dugout* podcast and received a Jen Angel Anarchist Media Grant for his work interviewing other political prisoners. A Kickstart has also been set up for Eric's new book, here.

Former Black Liberation prisoner Dhoruba Bin Wahad is fighting cancer and recently had a crowdfunder taken down, and so is requesting funds are sent directly via Cashapp to $Dhoruba.

As part of their Abolition Week, *Scalawag Magazine* has published an article by Chicano anarchist prisoner Xinachtli on the colonial history of Texas Rangers, along with an article by one of his support committee on Xinachtli and his case.

Uprising Defendants, Stop Cop City and other Ongoing Cases

The Frederick 4 cases have kicked off in court, with all three defendants so far being sentenced to probation, plus 32 hours community service for one defendant. At least two defendants plan to appeal their sentences. The next court date, and the last of the non-jury trials, is currently scheduled for September 23rd.

The dismissal of the Domestic Terrorism charge against Marsicano represents the latest in a series of legal setbacks for the state as it moves forward with its expansive effort to prosecute those who mobilized to '#StopCopCity':

— Unicorn Riot (@unicornriot.bsky.social) 2025-08-28T21:57:46.782Z

Stop Cop City defendant Jamie Marsicano has had their domestic terrorism charge dropped, and a judge ruled their rights had been violated. As *Unicorn Riot* reported:

Jamie Marsicano, one of dozens of defendants embroiled in the sprawling legal backlash brought against opponents of "Cop City," had a state-level Domestic Terrorism charge dropped in DeKalb County on Thursday. The dismissal represents the latest in a series of legal setbacks for the state as it moves forward with its expansive effort to prosecute those who mobilized to stop Cop City, a massive police training compound south of metro Atlanta in the South River Forest.

More than 29 months after Jamie was arrested and charged under Georgia's domestic terrorism statute for their participation in the movement against Cop City, the state hadn't brought an indictment against the North Carolina resident, leaving them in limbo as they waited for a decision from the court regarding their charge and potential trial.

In a ruling issued August 14, Judge Gregory Adams determined the pending charge had disrupted Jamie's life to the point that their due process rights had been violated. Further, Adams agreed with the defense's argument that the state was delaying Jamie's indictment in order to get a tactical advantage in the ongoing Racketeering Influenced Criminal Organization (RICO) case unfolding in neighboring Fulton County. The court also found that Marsicano's right to a speedy trial had been violated.

Chris "Big Tex" G, an antifascist in Texas, is facing new charges, having previously beaten older ones. You can donate to his legal defense funds here.

An activist in Texas is facing hate crime charges for spray painting slogans against Israel.

Also in Texas, 22 people have been arrested in Houston at a protest outside the Israeli consulate.

Anti-ICE protester Adrienne Villa was arrested by state police on 6/13/25. Four days later, her bail was set at $1.33 million, a sum far beyond her means. Hours after her bail hearing, she was found hanging in a cell within the courthouse's lockup and pronounced dead at 4 AM.

— Econ Analytica

(@econanalytica.bsky.social) 2025-08-21T23:01:09.546Z

The LA Public Press has an analysis of the charges that were brought against 71 people as a result of resistance to ICE earlier this summer, and *VPS Reports* has a story in the *Daily Kos* concentrating specifically on the case of Adrienne Villa, who died by hanging in an LA jail after having bail set at $1.33 million.

In Spokane, WA, all failure to disperse charges against anti-ICE protesters have been dismissed, although it sounds like there's a risk the charges will be re-filed.

Seattle George Floyd Uprising defendant Tyre Means has been released and is asking for donations to help rebuild his life. An updated version of the Support Uprising Prisoners zine is available here, and Heatwave Magazine recently ran a feature on the work of the Uprising Support collective, which has been turned into a printable zine here.

Court Calls for Alligator Alcatraz to Close as Reports of Uprising Emerge

> NEW: Immigration Detainees Revolt at Notorious Florida Detention Camp, Report Saysunicornriot.ninja/2025/immig
>
> — Unicorn Riot (@unicornriot.bsky.social) 2025-08-29T10:42:40.233Z

Following a lawsuit launched by the Miccosukee tribe, a federal court has ordered a halt to construction of the 'Alligator Alcatraz' facility, which is built on Miccosukee land, and has called for the site to be closed within 60 days, although the state of Florida is now appealing the ruling. As of the end of August, reports of an attempted uprising at the facility are beginning to emerge.

As *Unicorn Riot* reported:

> Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport, Everglades, FL - According to reporting by Noticias 23/Univision, an uprising took place on or around Thursday, August 28 at the notorious immigrant detention center called 'Alligator Alcatraz' by some and the 'Everglades Concentration Camp' by others. The site has drawn widespread condemnation due to severe human rights and environmental violations and is in the process of closing.
>
> Noticias 23/Univison reports that three detainees contacted them by phone and that alarms could be heard in the background of calls from the facility. At least four people detained at the rapidly-constructed detention camp, ordered shut down by a federal judge on Wednesday, have been reportedly injured in the uprising. The number of guards injured is currently unknown.
>
> Guards reportedly used tear gas and indiscriminate beatings to regain control of the facility when an unknown number of suffering captives began to revolt, presumably to attempt to escape. Detainees who contacted the Miami-Fort Lauderdale Spanish-language news outlet said that they could hear fire alarms as well as the sound of helicopters circling the facility.
>
> The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), tasked with running the facility, denies that any such events took place and did not respond to requests for comment according to Noticias 23/Univision. However, details reported in this incident are consistent with an earlier August 6 report by NBC 6 South Florida, in which detainees calling the news station reported general chaos, mass beatings by guards, and the likely death of an injured or sick person seen laying on the floor **"dying"** with no medical care available. The FDEM replied to NBC 6's inquiry for their earlier story by insisting **"these claims are false."** Detainees at the camp went on hunger strike in July stretching into August but the Department of Homeland Security repeatedly insisted this was not happening.
>
> According to Noticias 23/Univision's August 28 report, statements made by detainees who reached their reporters by telephone included the following. Quotes in Spanish reported by Noticias 23/Univision have been rush translated into English and may contain minor errors:
>
> **"They started yelling because a person had received news that a relative had died, and then they began shouting for freedom. At that moment, a prison team entered and started beating everyone. Right now everything is chaotic, and there's a helicopter above. They've beaten everyone here, a lot of people have bled. Brother, tear gas. We are immigrants, we are not criminals, we are not murderers."**
>
> **"There are helicopters overhead and a lot of people bleeding."**
>
> **"They are beating us, they are mistreating us."**
>
> (Through tears): **"We are being mistreated, we are being beaten. It's the emergency alarm, please help us."**
>
> Read the full article here.

Resistance to ICE Continues

Resistance continues against existing camps and other attempts to set up new facilities elsewhere, including the proposed Camp Baker elsewhere in Florida and the Moshannon Valley Processing Center near Philipsburg, PA. The US state is attempting to push ahead with construction of other new sites across the country, such as in Southwest Nebraska, all of which can be potential targets for resistance.

It's Going Down recently interviewed Alissa Azar on the ongoing resistance to ICE in Portland.

In El Paso, Texas, people are demanding the release of Catalina "Xochitl" Santiago, a community organizer and DACA recipient currently detained in ICE custody.

experiences, and that's really special.

Still, this moment feels different. Perhaps not any more strategic, but there's certainly a hunger for it. People are tired of symbolic gestures. They want to be intentional, to organize and act in ways that feel grounded, effective, and harder to co-opt. There's a tension between that desire and the reality of intense surveillance, burnout, and the sheer speed at which things are unfolding. But the desire is real, the energy is real, and that means something.

> — Rolling Stone (@rollingstone.com.web.brid.gy) 2025-08-22T13:00:00.000Z

That shift feels especially important given how much the landscape has changed. Now, that same violent machinery responsible for ICE raids and deportations has expanded its targets. Migrant communities are still being brutalized, detained, disappeared, and deported, but we're also seeing increased surveillance and repression aimed at those who show up to resist that violence. Protesters are being tracked with AI, filmed by drones, and snatched by federal agents in unmarked vans. They're being criminalized just for showing up. So while the roots of this movement go back to 2018 and long before, the stakes feel exponentially higher, and the state's repression more violent, strategic, and widespread.

IGD: *How have police and federal law enforcement responded to the protests?*

Alissa Azar: In the first month, especially the first two weeks, the police response was heavy and brutal. The Portland Police Bureau (PPB) showed up every night with large bike squads rolling through, riot vans, and squad cars stationed all around the ICE building. The scene was almost always the same: protesters gathered on the sidewalks or driveway, and federal agents would clear the way for their vehicles with violent force. They fired thousands of pepper balls at close range, launched tear gas canisters aimed at people's heads, charged at random individuals, and made violent arrests to clear their driveway. Targeted arrests, like for alleged graffiti, were mostly done by PPB early on after being given descriptors from federal agents.

> Surveillance technology is helping criminalize resistance
>
> — Alissa Azar (@alissaazar.bsky.social) 2025-07-31T17:50:38.865Z

During this, Chief Day and PPB attempted to manage optics by claiming they don't engage in immigration enforcement in each press release about an arrest they made at ICE, trying to distance themselves from federal agents. But behind the scenes, they continued working with the feds to identify and build cases against demonstrators. While PPB's presence has been less overt lately at ICE in the way they were at first, they're still around and surveilling activists.

Photo via Alissa Azar

Meanwhile, federal law enforcement presence and violence have only escalated. BORTAC and other federal agents from across the country flooded in...some wearing Texas patches, one sporting a "Portlandistan" patch. The violence they've inflicted has sent at least 11 people to the hospital with serious injuries. They've fired tear gas and munitions in massive quantities, sometimes shooting munitions from rooftops. People have been arrested on fabricated charges, detained, ID'd, and released. Neighbors by the facility are buying gas masks for their toddlers because of all the chemical weapons seeping into their homes. It's bad.

The repression has also escalated beyond the streets. One person arrested by PPB had the FBI show up at their home weeks later and arrest them on federal charges. Another who had never been arrested had over 20 federal agents show up to their home and point ARs at them and their housemate before taking them into custody. Several people now face serious federal charges, and it's clear that law enforcement's surveillance goes far beyond in the moment at the ICE building protests themselves.

IGD: *Tom Homan and others have made a lot of noise about the protests as "storming" the ICE facility, and have promised to return to Portland with greater intensity, what do you make of these threats and the narrative that protesters are a violent threat?*

Alissa Azar: The whole "protesters stormed the ICE facility" narrative is pure bullshit. Sure, a glass door got broken, and people were standing in the driveway and on the sidewalk, like they always do when protesting there. That's literally it. But that lie spread fast, because fabrications like this are a classic move by law enforcement, fascist regimes, and the media to justify repression. It's what fascists do: invent threats to manufacture consent for violence and authoritarian crackdowns.

> ICE tear gas the whole neighborhood for no reason, then come out and pepper spray and shove protesters for flipping them off. @ICE out of Portland
>
> — John Thelefty (@johnnthelefty.bsky.social) 2025-08-17T19:49:03.038Z

Their strategy relies heavily on fear, scaring the public into accepting even more repression. But it's crucial to remember the historical context: these lies always come before escalations in state violence. The narrative they push isn't just about controlling the present; it's about paving the way for more brutality to come, making the next wave of repression seem necessary or even inevitable as they attempt to normalize the police state.

IGD: *What is the state of the demonstrations currently and where do you see things going in the future, especially with Portland's history of mobilizing against Trump?*

rooftop of the facility. The demonstrators have been broadly nonviolent — although some agitators have been arrested and brought up on both minor and serious charges.

The habitual deployment of chemical irritants by federal agents has created fear in the neighborhood. Locals have posted biohazard warning signs: "This area has been sprayed with TEAR GAS & TOXIC CHEMICALS."

As a new academic year approaches, a nearby public school has been forced to abandon its longtime campus, citing threats to student health. "We didn't know if there are new gases being used. We didn't even know how to identify them," says the school's interim executive director, Laura Cartwright, who committed to an "emergency move" amid cratering enrollment. "If we would have stayed, we might have lost our school because of people's concerns around safety."

The makeup and potential health impacts of the chemical munitions used by ICE in the neighborhood has not been disclosed. ICE did not respond on the record for this story, including to questions about its crowd-control arsenal. Anti-ICE activists have begun cataloging canisters collected from the streets outside the facility, posting pictures of munitions labeled "CS," or tear gas; "Green Smoke"; and "Orange Smoke." (A demonstrator on the scene also showed this reporter a spent canister of Green Smoke.)

In July, Portland's city government disclosed it has received reports of "chemical munitions" being used against protestors, including "pepper balls, pepper spray, and... smoke grenades." It described steps it has taken to prevent ICE's chemical pollution from entering local waterways. (The city's own police have been so trigger-happy firing chemical munitions against protesters that the bureau got written up by war crimes investigators.)

Repression against anti-ICE protesters has also been escalating, with the FBI making targeted arrests, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) attacking anarchist websites for supposedly "doxxing" ICE agents, and "Border Czar" Tom Homan, threatening to send even more federal law enforcement agents into Portland, in retaliation for ongoing solidarity demonstrations.

Wanting to know more about the context of this unfolding scene in Portland, we sat down with grassroots journalist, Alissa Azar, to find out what is really happening amidst the clouds of tear-gas and the ongoing fury against escalating attacks by ICE.

IGD: *Broadly speaking, what's been happening in Portland, OR since protests heated up in Los Angeles, CA in early June? Seems there has been an uptick in demonstrations outside of the ICE facility there?*

Alissa Azar: Definitely. Since June 8th, people in Portland have been holding it down outside the ICE field office with consistent, daily demonstrations. It started small, folks setting up tents and establishing a presence, but quickly picked up momentum. For the first few weeks, it looked like an occupation. People were occupying space near the facility despite constant harassment from the Portland Police Bureau (PPB), who kept posting bogus "illegal campsite" notices and threatening sweeps. Sometimes they followed through, stealing and destroying people's supplies. Other times, folks moved preemptively. But the protest didn't stop. People stayed resilient and kept showing up.

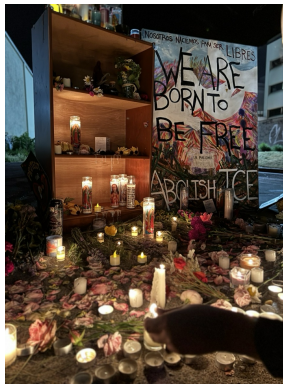


Photo via Alissa Azar

Over time, the energy shifted from a stationary encampment to a persistent, mobile demonstration. Every morning, afternoon, and night, people have been out there in protest, nonstop.

What's been especially powerful is the depth of community support and the diversity of tactics and events. There've been Indigenous-led prayer and dance ceremonies, art builds, nighttime bloc'd-up demos, group bike rides to the facility, bloc parties, dance parties, liberal rallies, cookouts... You name it. It's been going on every. Single. Day. Mutual aid has been constant, with folks bringing food, medical supplies, water, and whatever else people need. I remember being overwhelmed by the sheer number of cars honking in support on multiple occasions. At some point, you get used to the noise, but it's a beautiful thing to grow numb to.

IGD: *This place was also the scene of the Abolish ICE occupation protests in 2018, how has this history influenced, if at all, the recent demonstrations?*

Alissa Azar: I think it would be naive of me to assume there aren't at least some of the same people involved now who were part of the 2018 occupation. Portland has a long memory, and one of the things that makes this city magical is how often you see people from different waves of resistance, different generations of struggle, showing up alongside each other. There are a lot of lessons and information that get passed on through shared

Kilmar Abrego Garcia will be held in the US in ICE custody until at least early October, as his legal battle continues.

According to *The Guardian:*

> The arrest of a US army veteran who protested against the Trump administration's immigration crackdown has raised alarms among legal experts and fellow veterans familiar with his service in Afghanistan.
>
> Bajun Mavalwalla II - a former army sergeant who survived a roadside bomb blast on a special operations mission in Afghanistan - was charged in July with "conspiracy to impede or injure officers" after joining a demonstration against federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Ice) in Spokane, Washington.
>
> Legal experts say the case marks an escalation in the administration's attacks on first amendment rights. Afghanistan war veterans who know him say the case against Mavalwalla appears unjust.

Read the full article here.

UPROAR and Collective Punishment in Virginia Prisons

UPROAR organized a protest in Richmond at the end of August opposing abuse and neglect in VADOC, the Virginia prison system. They have a new campaign responding to reports of widespread collective punishment across Red Onion, Keen Mountain, and River North:

> Reports from **Red Onion (Wise Co.)**, **Keen Mountain (Buchanan Co.)**, and **River North (Grayson Co.)** describe a new "privileges & incentives" regime that imposes *collective punishment* — confiscating tablets/TVs and slashing visits, phone access, recreation, and commissary from people who did *not* offend. We also possess a **verbatim memo from Red Onion** implementing these policies.

Virginia DOC's statewide rule, **Operating Procedure 861.1 (Inmate Discipline)**, requires discipline to be *individual, post-conviction, and time-limited*, with safeguards for limited commissary access, legal/attorney communication, and minimum out-of-cell time. The reported practices contradict those requirements.

They're also organizing a campaign in defense of Cameron Harper at Keen Mountain, who had a knife planted in his cell to justify retaliatory charges. On September 17, they'll be organizing court support for Austin Arocho, who's facing new felony charges after setting himself on fire in protest at his conditions.

Mail Digitization in California Prisons

Oakland Abolition & Solidarity have shared an update on the fight against mail digitization in California. They write:

> Mail digitization if not immediate in CA remains possible whatever the timeline or present state of Sacramento's deliberation. Our mandate remains the same though - to build and fight - and now that we have a better grasp of the campaign landscape, we can work on next steps. Our formation has particular strengths of analysis and motion compared to the civil rights and policy oriented nonprofit sector, and correspondingly it's time to assess just what is "in our wheelhouse" and stretch a bit beyond it.
>
> Conclusions Mail digitization if not immediate in CA remains possible whatever the timeline or present state of Sacramento's deliberation. Our mandate remains the same though - to build and fight - and now that we have a better grasp of the campaign landscape, we can work on next steps. Our formation has particular strengths of analysis and motion compared to the civil rights and policy oriented nonprofit sector, and correspondingly it's time to assess just what is "in our wheelhouse" and stretch a bit beyond it.

Read the full report here.

General Prison News & Abolitionist Media Updates

A rally in support of wrongly imprisoned firefighter Brian "Hakyim" Simpson was held in Portland, Oregon on August 9th.

Vaughn 17 prisoner Jarreau Ayers has launched a new podcast, the *Yard Talk*.

> Should non-profits be turned to in search of legal protection from fascism? Dylan says—"Another responsibility a lot of us have... is to be really sober and direct and loving in how we communicate the diagnosis of the historical period that we are privileged to be part of. Which is to say..." 1/📕
>
> — Outlaw Podcast (@outlawpod.bsky.social) 2025-08-20T14:43:26.513Z

The Outlaw podcast recently had an episode on non-profits and state repression.

Texas prisoner Jason Renard Walker has published several new articles on his blog, covering TDCJ and Securus staff members using their position to carry out identity fraud, the Jeffrey Epstein case, and his experiences with the white supremacist El Paso mass shooter.

Mongoose Distro has published another article by Ronin Grey on forced detention in psychiatric hospitals.

The support team for Lucasville Uprising prisoner Greg Curry held a successful fundraiser in Detroit in late August, and are planning another for October.

The San Francisco Bay View have marked Black August with an article on the campaign to free Donald "C-Note" Hooker, a writer imprisoned in the California system.

Bryan Hooper, another wrongfully convicted Black man

in Minnesota, is hoping to be freed from his life sentence after the state's key trial witness recently admitted to the murder Hooper was convicted for. unicornriot.ninja/2025/after-2...

— Unicorn Riot (@unicornriot.bsky.social) 2025-08-23T06:46:33.216Z

Unicorn Riot has coverage of the campaign to free Bryan Hooper, who has spent 27 years in the Minnesota prison system for a murder that someone else has now confessed to, and a look at the current state of mail censorship and book bans in the Federal system.

The anti-carceral collective No Estamos Todes have given an interview on the current state of the prison system in Chiapas, Mexico.

Scalawag Magazine runs an annual Abolition Week in August, showcasing writing by prisoners and about the prison system, with this year's articles including trans Texas prisoner Xandan Gulley on staff-arranged fights, a poem by New York prisoner E Paris Whitfield, New York prisoner Corey Devon Arthur on new rulings allowing staff to record strip searches, Texas prisoner Lanae Tipton on mental health care in prison, an article on the links between the IDF and ICE, a report on the launch of a poetry collection by US Palestinian political prisoner Shukri Abu Baker of the Holy Land 5, and an article on the similarities between ICE and military recruitment by anti-ICE activist Samantha Hamilton and current detainee Alma Bowman.

International

As this column was being put together, a massive uprising has kicked off in Indonesia. Expect more updates soon, but you can contribute to a solidarity fund here. A post from the Anarchist Black Cross wrote:

Palang Hitam / ABC Indonesia asks if it is possible to organise solidarity demonstration/action at the Indonesian embassies in foreign countries. We ask comrades from various countries for help.

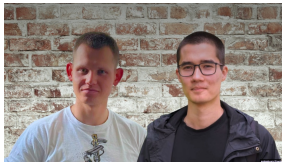
The mass uprising in Indonesia is facing severe repression. Dozens of people are confirmed missing, at least 6 people have been killed. Many are injured. Thousands of people have been arrested. Police have been attacking the universities. Police and army check points are setting up everywhere. Many people are being arrested for live streamings and counter-info blogs and social medias are being tracked and comrades arrested. NGOs, liberal/left unions and student union stewards are helping the repression.

In UK news, IWOC has published a report on anarchist ex-prisoner Toby Shone facing continuing hassle when crossing the UK border, along with two new articles from prisoner Kevan Thakrar looking at the reality of the UK's prison expansion project, and conditions inside England's torture units.

In Greece, anarchist Andreas Floros has been acquitted in the "Revenge Conspiracy" case, while Barış Erhan, a Turkish revolutionary who had to flee to Greece, has been sentenced to 74 years after being wrongfully convicted of people smuggling.

There's a call for a long-term campaign of sending mail in to Italian anarchist prisoner Alfredo Cospito to break the isolation the state is imposing on him.

The Palestinian Prisoners Society has published a report on abuses against women prisoners held in Israel's Damon prison in August, and Samidoun report that Abdul-Jabbar Jarrar has been sentenced to an additional year of administrative detention on the anniversary of the death of his wife. Wafa Jarrar. Samidoun is also calling for the freedom of Lebanese and Syrian prisoners held in Israeli jails. Mohammed Khatib, the European coordinator for Samidoun, is currently threatened with deportation from Belgium.



Andrey Chepyuk and Akihiro Gaevsky-Khanada

Unicorn Riot has an extensive report looking at the repression of the Palestine solidarity movement in Germany, while the International Antifascist Defense Fund has made a contribution to help antifascists in Augsburg, Germany, repair their homes after they were damaged in police raids.

In Chile, the trial of Aldo and Lucas Hernández, anarchists accused of taking actions against the police, continues.

Belarus ABC have published a round-up of news about anarchist political prisoners in Belarus in recent months, along with the first part of an in-depth interview with former anarchist prisoners Akihiro Gaevsky-Khanada and Andrey Chepyuk.

ABC Moscow have shared news of the birthdays of Russian anarchist and antifascist prisoners Savely Frolov, Nikita Uvarov and Bogdan Yakimenko, and have news on the case of Dmitry Osyagin, an anarchist who has been sentenced to 15 years for sabotage actions against a court building and anti-government comments.

Uprising Defendants

See Uprising Support for more info, and check out the Antirepression PDX site for updates from Portland cases. You can also check With Whatever Weapons for regularly-updated zines listing current prisoners. To the best of our knowledge they currently include:

Margaret Channon 49955-086
FCI Tallahassee
P.O. Box 5000
Tallahassee, FL 32314

Malik Muhammad #23935744
Snake River Correctional
777 Stanton Blvd

an actual city with real communities, families, groups, and individuals that work, go to school, and do all those normal everyday things people do in other cities.

Good to experience some joy and live gogo music tonight. Love this city #FreeDC

— Ross Wallen (@rosswallen.bsky.social) 2025-08-22T00:21:52.221Z

DC has a long, radical history of tenant, worker, youth, and immigrant organizing. DC is Chocolate City, a name filled with decades of Black radical thought and action. During the 1980s, some of the countries strongest rights and policies were won for unhoused people through direct action and organizing. National media always portrays DC as the White House and Congress. It's hard to not see that playing out here. Democrats are barely doing anything, let alone protesting. Therefore they think DC is doing nothing. That is far from the truth. So many of us are organizing daily, making safe spaces for our youth, immigrant, and unhoused communities. We hope that the awesome work being done by everyday people in this city gains traction, but there is a long history of erasing resistance, protest, mutual aid, and organizing that goes beyond the National Mall and houses of power.

"Where are the protests????!!"The whole city is screaming at feds every time we step outside.

— Remora House DC (@remorahousedc.bsky.social) 2025-08-24T03:30:28.030Z

What is also missed here is what is protest? What is resistance? Marches in the street, banners, signs, yeah that's all one form of protest. Its flashy, its visible, journalists have photo opportunities, they pray a trash can is set on fire. But the person screaming out of their car window calling an ICE agent a Nazi is a protest. The people getting food to families of migrant neighbors abducted by ICE is resistance. Refusing to accept the police state, organizing to keep each other safe, directing traffic away from checkpoints, escorting folks to food pantries are all beautiful acts of resistance in a moment that the state wants us to hide and feel afraid.

IGD: *If Trump follows through with threats to flood other cities with federal troops, what lessons from DC do you think they should learn from?*

RH: Communities should start doing car care clinics to lessen the likelihood of opportunistic traffic stops. Mutual aid groups and other services for migrant communities - churches, food pantries, mutual aid distributions - should start working on safety plans for the folks they provide resources to in order to diminish the opportunity for ICE to make arrests and to continue to provide support to the people who need it.

New signs were up this afternoon and bands were playing

— Chris Richards (@chrisrichards.bsky.social) 2025-08-18T01:33:16.908Z

Get 'Know Your Rights' information out to everyone but especially Black and Brown neighbors most likely to be criminalized. Practice with them so they are ready. Support mutual aid networks already in place supporting these communities.

#FreeDC

— Patrick Young (@patrickjyoung.bsky.social) 2025-08-22T03:11:11.032Z

Is there a cop watch hotline in your city? Can you get trained up and ready to support when there is an influx of calls? Is there a mutual aid network already providing care to families of people abducted by ICE? Can you offer your car, bike, wagon to help them get meals out?

IGD: *Where can people donate, follow, and support mutual aid and local organizing?*

Got more supplies out to folks impacted by camp evictions in DC today!Lanterns, flashlights, batteries, zip ties, & body wipes.Thank you all for your support right now ♥

— Remora House DC (@remorahousedc.bsky.social) 2025-08-17T20:09:25.558Z

RH: Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid, Remora House, Feed the People Mutual Aid, HIPS, Food not Bombs DC, Ward 1 Mutual Aid, Ward 2 Mutual Aid, Harriet's Wildest Dream, and Free DC. For news, check out *The 51st*.

"Neighbors Are Buying Gas Masks for Their Toddlers": Alissa Azar on ICE's Continued Brutality in Portland

August 23, 2025

Over the summer, we've seen people in Los Angeles and across the US mobilize in the face of the ramping up of horrific and violent deportations, as the Trump administration makes a real push for country-wide ethnic cleansing. As we speak, people in Washington DC are seeing their streets flooded with federal law enforcement, as communities mobilize grassroots rapid response networks and mutual aid initiatives, in an effort to defend their neighbors and resist ICE, while federal agents set up check points and the National Guard drives tanks down DC streets.

Meanwhile, cities like Portland, OR, are seeing ongoing, often nightly demonstrations, as popular opinion continues to sour against growing attacks against working-class immigrants and protest action against ICE shows no signs of slowing down. But while the pro-Trump media plays up hysteria around demonstrators "storming" ICE offices, in reality, the real violence is coming from the state itself.

As *Rolling Stone* recently reported:

Agents in gas masks burst out of a gated driveway amid curtains of green smoke and other crowd-control munitions. Protesters tell of agents raining pepper-ball rounds down on them from the

hour (6-8pm) in some of the busiest intersections in the city, again being guided by local police to target Black neighborhoods.

FREE DC

— (@bigredredacted.bsky.social) 2025-08-24T15:00:27.078Z

Traffic stops have been escalated to arrests for nearly anything. Small infractions that would have MAYBE been a fine, if pursued at all, are arrests now. Tail lights out? Arrest. Selling loose cigarettes? Arrest. Smoking a joint in the park, where marijuana is decriminalized? Arrest. Fare evasion? Arrest. They are intentionally and strategically aggravating and escalating people so they can ramp up charges of evading arrest and assault. Part of it is absolutely for show, but its having very real impacts on the community and resulting and real arrests.

> Just a few days ago, 14th Street was taken over by a checkpoint where police and federal forces profiled and brutally detained people until organizers shut it down. Today, people came together on 14th & U with @freedcproject_ to demand an end to the occupation.
>
> — Aparna Raj (@aparnafordc.bsky.social) 2025-08-19T02:16:04.856Z

The National Guard is largely a spectacle, but the feds are very much targeting vulnerable communities and causing real harm.

IGD: *Why do you think Trump did not do that ride along like he threatened to do? This came after Vance, Miller and Hegseth were mocked and protested when they went out in public.*

RH: They have yet to have a successful photo-op in all of this because they are just being screamed at and called couch fuckers anytime they make an appearance. They wouldn't have gotten the propaganda they wanted.

Free DC

> — Just Tam (@just-tam.bsky.social) 2025-08-18T20:38:19.302Z

IGD: *We've seen a lot of viral videos of rapid response teams setting up protests around checkpoints and people heckling agents and driving them out of public spaces. Can you speak more to what is happening on the ground?*

RH: People are sharing information on checkpoints super quickly online and DC is not a large city so people are able to mobilize quickly. On the ground, folks are self organizing to both film the cops, support anyone being detained, absolutely roasting every officer present, and setting up at intersections ahead of the checkpoints with posters to divert traffic around.

> This is how it's done. Bravo!👏🔥
>
> — Andrea Devon (@andreadevon.bsky.social) 2025-08-23T18:51:46.579Z

But a lot of it is just the people of DC trying to go about their day, seeing feds targeting people or trying to patrol neighborhoods, and taking some time to scream at them and let them know they are not welcome here, they are not wanted, and we're not going to be fucking quiet about it.

IGD: *What in the fuck happened with this dildo in the park with the banner?*

RH: Lol, no idea really. Feds tore down pro-migrant banners twice in a neighborhood with a large migrant community. The second time they left a dildo? Maybe they are the same tech bros throwing dildos at the WNBA games?

IGD: *How have mutual aid groups responded to attacks on the houseless community?*

RH: We have had a hard time with this one. One thing we have done is try to get information out to unhoused people, getting out know your rights information and safety precautions to take specifically for the unhoused community, as well as keeping people updated on what's happening, what's changing, what neighborhoods seem to be really targeted.

> Large and loud #FreeDC street party in DC tonight. Trump's claim to be joining "patrol" never materialized. Everyday sees continued mobilization, protests, rapid response organizing, and mutual aid activity.Video via @/ChuckModi1
>
> — It's Going Down (@igd.bsky.social) 2025-08-22T05:55:27.813Z

Previously, (on January 6th and the months of fascist marches leading up to it and the lockdown following), we have focused on hotels and metro cards to get folks temporarily out of harms way. Some groups have been working to get folks up in hotels immediately after an eviction so they have a few days to rest and regroup.

> The amount of wheatpaste across the city right now is incredible.crimethinc.com/zines/fi ...
>
> — Remora House DC (@remorahousedc.bsky.social) 2025-08-24T03:24:53.222Z

This is great, but not the best long term strategy, we don't have the time or money to keep it up long term, especially when we're looking at at least a month of the occupation. As encampments are constantly being evicted and unhoused folks are under near consent threat of state violence, we have found less want tents and more are asking for carts, sleeping bags, and tarps so they can be more mobile. We have responded by trying to listen and shift our supplies to meet this need.

IGD: *We're seeing protests, street art campaigns celebrating rebel sandwich throwers, and go-go "Free DC" music festivals. While the media has pushed a line of, "Where are all the protests," in reality it seems a lot is going on and the vast majority of the public is against what is happening. How do you see this continuing to manifest going forward?*

RH: People constantly forget DC is

Ontario, OR 97914

Montez Lee 22429-041
FCI Petersburg Medium
Federal Correctional Institution
PO Box 1000
Petersburg, VA 23804

Matthew Rupert#55013-424
USP Big Sandy
US Penitentiary
P.O. Box 2068
Inez, KY 41224

José Felan #54146-380
FCI Terre Haute
Federal Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 33
Terre Haute, IN 47808

David Elmakayes 77782-066
USP Lee
PO Box 305
Jonesville, VA 24263

Khalif Miller #QQ9287
Camp Hill
PO Box 33028
St. Petersburg, FL 33733

Mujera Benjamin Lunga'ho #08572-509
08572-509
FCI Beaumont Medium
Federal Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 26040
Beaumont, TX 77720

Christopher Tindal 04392-509
FCI Cumberland
PO Box 1000
Cumberland, MD 21501

Upcoming Birthdays

The Political Prisoners Birthday Calendar project has been revived, and you can find the September version of the calendar here.

Aleksandr Belov

An anarchist from Belarus who was detained on July 29th 2021 and given five years in prison on charges of organization of actions that disrupted public order during post-election protests in Belarus.

Belarusian prisons will usually only accept letters in Belarusian or Russian, so if you don't speak one of those languages your best bet is to email your message to belarus_abc(AT)riseup.net or use this online form and they should be able to translate your greetings and pass them on.

Birthday: September 1

Address:

(Belarusian or Russian letters only · use this form for English messages)

Belov Aleksandr Andreevich
Prison No. 4, ul. Krupskoy, 99A,
Mogilov,
212011, Belarus

John Bramble

A former Vaughn 17 defendant and contributor to the Vaughn uprising zines "Live from the Trenches" and "United We Stood" and other publications, such as the May 2020 and August 2021 issues of *Anathema.* Johnny has continued to organize and agitate against the prison system from within. As a result, he is still being held in solitary confinement.

Johnny is looking for anarchists, autonomists, and other radicals to regularly correspond with.

Delaware uses Getting Out for email messaging, so you can also send him a message by going to gettingout.com, setting up an account, and then adding him as a contact using his inmate number #405202.

Birthday: September 1

Address:

John Bramble #405202
Delaware DOC - 1101
PO Box 96777
Las Vegas, NV 89193

Bogdan Yakimenko

Bogdan Yakimenko is a Russian antifascist prisoner serving a 4 year sentence after being convicted in the "Antifa United" case. Letters to Russian prisoners must be written in Russian (you can use automatic translation services to help with this), and can be sent using the service prisonmail.online.

Birthday: September 3

Address:

Yakimenko Bogdan Tarasovich, b. 1999
SIZO-1, Matrosskaya Tishina St., 18,
107076 Moscow, Russia

Sean Swain

Long-term anarchist prisoner and contributor to projects such as the *Final Straw Radio* and *Fire Ant* zine.

Ohio now uses Connect Network/GTL, so you can contact him online by going to connectnetwork.com, selecting "Add a facility," choosing "State: Ohio, Facility: Ohio Department of Rehabiliation and Corrections," going into the "messaging" service, and then adding him as a contact by searching his name or "A243205."

Birthday: September 12

Address:

Sean Swain #A243205
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
Mail Processing Center
878 Coitsville-Hubbard Rd
Youngstown, OH 44505

Greg Curry

Falsely convicted in the aftermath of the historic Lucasville prison uprising. You can learn more about Greg by reading his writings or listening to his interview with the *Final Straw*. Greg is currently working on an appeal against his wrongful conviction, so if you know a good attorney then please hit him up!You can buy merch to support Greg here.

Ohio now uses Connect Network/GTL, so you can contact him online by going to connectnetwork.com, selecting "Add a facility," choosing "State: Ohio, Facility: Ohio Department of Rehabiliation and Corrections", going into the "messaging" service, and then adding him as a contact by searching his name or "A213159".

Birthday: September 26

Address:

Greg Curry #213-159
878 Coitsville-Hubbard Rd

Youngstown, OH 44505

Jorge P. Cornell (King Jay)

Inca of the North Carolina Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation, community organizer who worked to broker truces and end gang violence and was given 28 years on a racketeering charge. You can learn more about King Jay by reading this profile of him. *The Final Straw* also broadcast two interviews with supporters, Sara Lee and Savannah, involved in solidarity efforts at the time of his trial.

King Jay is held in the Federal system, so you can only contact him via Corrlinks if he's added you as a contact.

Birthday: September 29

Address:

Jorge P. Cornell #28152-057
FCI Butner Low
Federal Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 999
Butner, NC 27509

cover photo via Radical Graffiti

The Heart Is a Muscle: 19 Embodiments of Antifascist Grief

September 1, 2025

Long-time anarchist author and organizer Cindy Milstein presents a collection of stories about resistance and grief.

Print PDF ***HERE***
Read PDF ***HERE***

Somehow, "antifascist grief" doesn't roll off the tongue like the phrase "climate grief," but perhaps it needs, if not a name, to at least be named. To be acknowledged. To step out of the same shadow of denial that seems to make it hard for so many people to even decisively say "fascism."

Maybe that's because making do-it-ourselves time, space, and rituals for grief is, in general, still so difficult. Still so hidden away, individualized, or private. Still so almost forbidden to extend beyond certain moments, like a funeral, or certain categories, like loved (human) ones. Or because it's so huge, amorphous, and overwhelming—a daily onslaught of bad news—that it's tough to even recognize the feelings of grief. We say instead "depressed," "hopeless," "scared," brushing off the loss. So much loss. Or we hurt ourselves and/or others.

Perhaps we don't have words for the specificity of the grief that accompanies fascism because its genocidal logic and practices are too monstrous for a "simple" thing like mourning.

Yet we have ghosts. Our ever-restless, unquiet dead lost to past fascisms. They haunt our bodies and tear at our hearts and rend the fabric of our lives. They cry out for vengeance. They also cry, issuing a communal wail of sorrow and rage that shreds the veil between the dead and us living, magnifying our grief backward and coloring the present ash gray.

What we anticipatorily grieve is something that has already happened, and as if to us. It is carried in our bones as something our ancestors didn't want to leave us as their legacy, but fascism forced it on them. If we're lucky, we carry the deep muscle memory of resistance too.

What if we dared to hold hands with these ghosts—our ever restless, unquiet ghosts against fascism—as a bridge to aid them and ourselves to mourn out loud, rebelliously and collectively? To let their blessed memory spark a blessed flame to illuminate the patterns of antifascist grief we all seem to be weighed down by these days, versus suffering on our own? What if, by naming and honoring our grief under Christofascism, we see our path forward together in ways that break some of the patterns that are breaking us and could instead better break fascism?

At the beginning of the pandemic, a friend remarked that the most compelling and insightful works of literature about past eras of mass death often took decades for the survivors to write. That stuck with me: that it's no easy task at all to process the losses from a genocide, for instance, along with the trauma and grief it generates in painful abundance. It's harder still to know what to say, and in a way that resonates with others as somehow speaking truth to the horror of what was perpetrated, while preserving whatever scraps of our shared humanity managed to outlive it.

Maybe it's too early to speak of our "antifascist grief," then, when we're in the midst of all that's causing it, or when we're likely only at the beginning of this catastrophe(s).

Yet it seems crucial to try, even if only to swap inklings of how grief is touching us now and thus know we're not alone in our feelings—as many of the pieces in this zine underscore. And from there, sketch out—even if in tentative strokes—how it's (re)shaping us, where it's taking us, what it's calling us to do and not do. Rather than wait until a time when we might become the unquiet dead, needing to torment future generations into seeing and contesting protofascisms before it's too late, it's imperative to embrace our antifascist grief so as to never forget, to borrow an anarchist saying, that "our hearts are a muscle the size of a fist. Keep loving. Keep fighting."

—Cindy Barukh Milstein

1

First, there's the crowds of strangers. The starving Palestinian children flickering past my screen—that screen built on the blood and sweat of Congolese children.

Second, there's the friends of friends, whose stories I hear, but will never be a part of. Jack, who

struggles across the US. Since Trump's Big Beautiful Bill, Immigration and Customs Enforcement has grown into the largest police force in the country and it's clear that future movements against policing will have to place organizing against ICE, borders, and citizenship at their core.

"The Whole City is Fighting Back": Remora House on Grassroots Resistance to Military Occupation in DC

August 25, 2025

For the last several weeks, federal agents and National Guard troops have flooded the streets of Washington DC, setting up an authoritarian occupation of the city; harassing residents, dismantling homeless encampments, and arresting undocumented workers. Under the manufactured pretext of "crime," the Trump administration is accelerating the weaponization of both law enforcement and the military against targeted populations within the United States.

As *Mother Jones* reported:

> The White House has claimed arrests in DC are up since the takeover began, but they have refused to release detailed information backing those claims. And what data they have revealed suggests that arrests of undocumented immigrants, not violent criminals, account for the increase. The administration also asserts that the federal takeover has led to the dismantling of at least 48 homeless encampments, but lacking any plans for where the homeless will go, that effort appears to prioritize short-term aesthetics over longer-term solutions. Some tent-dwellers already appear to be returning to previously cleared areas.

As we speak, National Guard troops have now been armed with firearms and one National Guardsman has already caused one person to be hospitalized, after a "14-ton, mine-resistant armored vehicle" ran a red-light, and crashed into an SUV.

ICE agents have also used the military buildup to continue carrying out draconian operations against migrant workers - while also ramping up attacks on political speech and organizing that challenges their power. Again, from *Mother Jones*:

> On Thursday in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood....federal agents appear to have left a dildo in the place of an anti-ICE banner they purloined a week before, residents confronted and pursued three apparently off-duty federal agents, cursing at them and taunting them about the sex toy. "Did you forget your dildo?" the woman shooting the video repeatedly asked.

In response, DC residents have taken to the streets in mass protests, set up rallies to oppose checkpoints, held open air concerts and noise demos, organized mutual aid programs, and mobilized to confront and drive out ICE agents from their neighborhoods. The streets of DC have also seen an explosion of street art, with posters giving a nod to a recent incident where an individual threw a sandwich at federal agents.

Wanting to know more about what is happening on the streets of DC, we reached out the Remora House, an autonomous mutual aid group based in DC, about the growing movement against the military occupation.

IGD: *What are some of the big things you want people outside of DC to know about what is happening there?*

Remora House: The whole city is fighting back every day in every corner of the city.

Youth organizers are showing up and demanding their schools and spaces be free of police and federal occupation. Mutual aid groups are supporting unhoused neighbors during and after evictions in an incredibly hostile landscape giving them no options for a safe place to sleep. Migrant support groups are running hotlines to report detentions and providing legal support for people as well as making sure impacted families are fed and emotionally supported. Folks are hopping on bikes and patrolling the city to report checkpoints and other fed activity. People trying to enjoy some pizza on a restaurant patio are taking a quick second to yell at feds and national guard troops walking down the street.

The occupying forces haven't had a moment of peace and the city is working tirelessly to protect and support each other.

IGD: *In general, we've seen on social media lots of reports of both checkpoints of police and various federal agencies, ICE carrying out targeted arrests, and also National Guard troops basically standing around. What are you seeing in regards to the deployment of federal troops and agents? What are they doing? Is there a strategy, or is this all for spectacle on Fox News?*

RH: In DC, federal agents have been paired up with Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officers, who are absolutely giving them intel on what neighborhoods have a large migrant community and high traffic areas to set up checkpoints and fish for any possible "crime" they can escalate to arrests.

> On August 15th, law enforcement in DC arrested and attacked a local activist with pepper-spray who was documenting their harassment of youth on the subway. Supporters rallied at the courthouse the next day, as the activist was released. Photo via @freedcproject.bsky.social
>
> — It's Going Down (@igd.bsky.social) 2025-08-18T07:33:07.511Z

ICE has targeted churches and food pantries in a neighborhood heavily populated with migrant neighbors - they knew to do that because MPD told them where to go. So bank on them having guidance from local PD, they won't be floundering trying to figure out where to go for long. They've also been setting up traffic checkpoints during rush

in a federal prison, Des is continuing to lend solidarity by drawing pictures for other inmates to send to their families.

Des makes a mean vegan posole. The first time I met Des, he was cheffing it up in the kitchen and literally exploded red chile everywhere in a brand-new apartment LMAO!

—Kourtney

Des did my first five tattoos ever. He's the only artist I would go to, due to his comforting and inviting nature. He remembered me every time, despite his busy schedule. Every session, we would share lighthearted conversations, mostly about his love for possums haha. He's one of the best people I've ever met. My mom has also been tattooed by him. He's always been an inspiration to us.

—Emma Grace

When I met Des, we were in a place that felt like the middle of nowhere. And his presence felt so warm and kind and open. His smile at times would literally light up a room—so powerful, I can still feel it. I remember his kindness, which manifested in so many ways—offering beautiful tattoos to people with such patience and care, sharing laughs and stories, sharing his artwork. And offering a truly present ear. When I think of the term "holding space," Des comes to mind. It is one of his many gifts. Just sitting next to him felt like a warm hug.

—Sayyida

I just want all the kitties and vegan donuts.

-Des

BACKGROUND

On July 4, 2025, around a dozen people gathered outside the ICE Prairieland Detention Center in Alvarado, Texas, for a noise demo in solidarity with immigrants and ICE detainees inside. At some point, an altercation allegedly occurred, after which an officer claimed to have sustained a minor injury. Ten people were arrested, and state and federal police then charged them with terrorism and attempted murder. Since then, another seven people have been arrested in connection with this case. The police have also terrorized friends and family members of those arrested at the protest, serving no-knock warrants, conducting house raids, and engaging in widespread surveillance.

Des was not at the noise demo. Instead, on July 6th, after receiving a phone call from his wife in jail (one of the initial ten who were arrested), Des was followed and arrested by the FBI in Denton, Texas—at first, under the pretext of a minor traffic violation. He was later charged with evidence tampering and obstruction of justice related to the Prairieland defendants. This allegation was based on a box of zines that he was supposedly moving in his truck—zines that could be found in any collective house or infoshop. Des was briefly held at the Johnson County Jail, but soon transferred to a federal prison, FMC Fort Worth.

He is also currently on an ICE hold, and has been publicly targeted and doxxed on social media by both prominent fascists and ICE. Moreover, right after his arrest, his family experienced a brutal and intimidating nine-hour FBI raid of their home. Police confiscated everything from electronics to stickers and more zines.

While Des is not being charged along with the other Prairieland defendants, his charges are tied to them. He is cited in all the other defendants' indictments so far for alleged evidence tampering, and the state has included a photo of the supposedly incriminating box of zines. But his case will look different and is separate from the others, and he may be the only defendant who is at direct risk from ICE.

Indeed, Des is not just at risk of a lengthy federal prison sentence, which is bad enough. Even if released, he is in danger of being kidnapped by ICE and/or assaulted by fascists.

The framing of the case by the federal government should worry all of us. It is a thinly veiled attempt to crack down on resistance, whether in deed or word. The criminalization of dissent—alongside solidarity and even ideas—means that everyone risks arrest and worse as the state moves to assert authoritarian power. Resistance, including zines, is not a crime.

WRITE TO DES

Daniel Rolando Sanchez Estrada
#95099-511
FMC Fort Worth
Federal Medical Center
PO Box 15330
Fort Worth, Texas 76119

REMINDER: Des is pretrial. DO NOT mention anything about the case or charges.

FREE DES RESOURCES

- Instagram @free-des-revol, @dfwsupportcommittee
- 2.5" Zines Are Not a Crime buttons: https://archive.org/dea-crime-buttons
- 1 Sheet Free Des Zine: https://archive.org/details/des-zine

Photo by Loan on Unsplash

Kite Line: Organizing Against the ICE Raids in Los Angeles

August 30, 2025

Long-running abolitionist podcast and radio show *Kite Line* features an interview on resisting ICE raids in Los Angeles, CA.

Listen and Download HERE

This episode focuses on the ICE raids still accelerating across the country, and the resistance spreading in response. We speak with K, an organizer in Los Angeles, who reflects on the ICE invasion and the movement against it, which has become a beacon for

helped install the bathroom cabinet in the Big Idea Bookstore. Jude, who went to Cook Forest and had to break into a cabin she paid for. Casey, who Miles thought would live longer, but she died before he could answer her question.

Third, there's the graveyard of beautiful, impossible pasts, presents, and futures. I imagine my friends without their battle scars. I imagine a world full of plants mingling on the sidewalk with solar panels, and wildflowers instead of lawns. I imagine what my childhood could've been like.

A while back, I ordered some zines from Filler Distro. They came wrapped in a poster. The back of it was about someone named Corinne "Tension" Cuyler—all the projects she was a part of and her importance to the writer's life. The front had pictures of graffiti created in her honor and property destruction done in her name.

I'll never stop grieving as long as I live—the kind where the loss wells up so bad, I can't leave the house, sure, but also the kind where I burn. Every genocide, every suicide, every dull and painful existence is a murder by the state and capital. I refuse to forget that. I refuse to let anyone else forget it. Most of all, I fucking refuse to let anyone else go through that shit. I write and distro food and treat strangers with kindness. I do it for the ghosts hanging over my shoulders, the living dead, and myself. We're all we've got.

—Ben

2

Grief is a tightrope I walk. On the one end, there's the seemingly surreal amount of suffering, loss, death, pain, and hate. On the other, the connections, love, resistance, and refusal of my networks of kin and comrades. For my own well-being, balance is essential. To fall off this tightrope means to enter into crisis. And crises for me are the hopeless places of despair, suicidality, and addiction. I do not want to go back there, for I've worked too hard to get out.

This moment is challenging: it seems incomprehensible, yet demands that we live it. To accept reality yet not consent to its impositions is a difficult proposition. To be awake in a world awash in pain is to risk drowning in it. So I must set boundaries. I limit my intake of news. I make space for play. I reach out to others.

At my best, all I have done is say, "Friend, you don't need to carry this alone." I believe it is through collectively carrying the infinite weight of stolen lives, the weight of loss, injustice, fear, genocide, state terror, and fascism, that we forge collective memory. It is how we fight back against forgetting. And it is how together, we can walk forward, balanced in defiant grief. No one can hold all of this alone. We must all lend a hand to keep one another from falling.

—Scott Campbell

3

i need to laugh because i've exhausted my rage. i'm not sure where the anger has gone, and i'm nervous i've lost sight of laughter too. i'm not sure whether that's because i have been angry for so long that i've depleted the reserves of my rage, or because i can now only choose between apathy and resignation. there's comfort in the certainty of anger, but the dependability of fury is not enough. i'm tired, and i can't fall asleep because i think the state is keeping a closer eye on my friends than i am. our grief demands the impossible task of reconciling that our solidarity moves slower than genocide. i'm scared, yet i'm blessed with the struggle, even when i struggle to feel.

—JOTA

4

I'm a hospice music therapist. Every day I bear witness to the grief of the dying and their loved ones. I sit with them in their time of fear, anger, denial, and sorrow—not just to acknowledge and validate their grief, but to give them an outlet to express it.

Yet I also see and feel the deep grief of the world around me. I can't help but make these connections. To bear witness to genocide, climate disasters, and fascism.

Instead, we're all expected to move on. Set our pain aside. Go to our jobs and continue to feed the war machine in some endless cycle. But what I've learned through my work is that grief doesn't like to be stagnant. It doesn't like to be invisible.

Fascism tries to take so much from us, including making us feel alone. It has a much harder time prevailing, though, if we're united. Grief is a binding force. It ties people together from every walk of life through this most human of experiences. It shows us that we are interconnected; it builds community.

We have the power to channel our losses into music, art, prayer, poetry, organizing, and so much more. Taking the time to honor, express, and share your grief is rebellious. Don't let anyone take that from you.

—L. Hillebrand

5

When the news broke about Tennessee's gender-affirming care ban, I was at a queer youth leadership program, and my trans friends and I hosted a grief space to process it. We spent most of the night discussing our fears and anxieties. Then we moved toward collective care: hate-watching low-budget straight rom-coms, doing each other's hair and nails, and writing tragically terrible poetry.

From the outside, it might have looked like an angst-driven teenage gathering. But as the evening wore on, little sparks of hope started to appear.

We spoke of mutual aid efforts in our cities that are trying to support youths like us, spaces that have made us feel safe in the past, and the trans futures we envision. Those among us who hadn't organized before came away with suggestions. We all promised to crowdfund for each other's HRT or help each other travel across state lines if needed, and hold each other

through these anxiety-ridden, painful times.

I also met someone that night who became one of my closest anarchist comrades. Yesterday, when we both began spiraling downward about the latest anti-trans news, we reminded ourselves to talk about the anarchist projects we want to start in resistance to that. She's trying to set up a mutual aid group to support trans youths with housing; I'm trying to create a similar thing for trans youths navigating coercive control. Both of us are still animated by the grief space and the hope it generated for us that evening, and thanks to the trans community we found in that darkest of moments, we're now able to dream in more liberatory ways.

—mk zariel

6

Last summer at our student encampment for Palestine, I shared a prayer for sadness, from Siddur Lev Shalem, that has long been meaningful to me. I knew that as written, the prayer wouldn't serve our self-organized community: not only does it speak of grief as an individual—as opposed to communal—experience, but the prayer asks Hashem to return us to a place of happiness. Given that we were all witnessing an ongoing genocide in Gaza, it felt wrong to ask for our brokenheartedness to be transformed into joy. So I changed it to ask Hashem to "witness" our grief and help us understand its causes, and give us the strength to not turn away from our sorrow but instead continue the struggle for the people of Gaza and Palestine.

It was a profound moment, opening me up to witnessing even more grief—globally and locally, collectively and personally. I realized that this sadness is not mine alone to carry. Now I am holding it with others, and together, it is part of our communal bond. Our moments of shared joy are brighter because we carry so much pain together.

Just as engaging in mutual aid transforms one's material relations to others from transactional to reciprocal, from charity to solidarity, it's transformational to be with others in our mourning. I'm not grieving "for" others but rather "with" them.

My initial intuition has been reinforced by encounters with Buddhist, Jewish, and anarchist texts that speak to the inevitability of loss and suffering. They, like my community, teach me to embrace grief.

—Shamma Boyarin

7

For the past two years, those of us affected by ME/CFS, along with relatives and friends who came in place of their dead or those too sick to attend, have demonstrated together. We've held mourning protests, accompanied by speeches over loudspeakers, singing, and occupying Leipzig's central square by laying down. For a lot of us, laying in bed in a dark room is our daily reality. Our grief would remain hidden and forgotten, missing from public life and frequently "even" radical events, if it weren't for these intentional moments of our own making.

ME/CFS mostly affects women and other marginalized folks, and disability issues in general are usually among the first to be compromised under fascism. Fighting against both the stigmas attached to ME/CFS—such as laziness, "work shy," attention seeking, and hysteria—and its instrumentalization by right-wing conspiracy theorists for their anti-vax agenda makes our struggle one that's anticapitalist, feminist, and antifascist. Indeed, at both of our demos, we faced small batches of (sometimes violent) counterprotesters, clearly from Far Right circles.

So we grieve daily. For the loss of physical strength and participation in life. For when another person dies from ignorance in a hospital. For when a friend "chooses" assisted suicide because the reality of their life makes them feel as if they're already buried. And we will continue to hold rituals for as long as our illnesses—ME/CFS and other chronic conditions—are neglected by a heartless capitalist "health care" system, fascistic power holders, and maybe saddest of all, so-called leftist spaces.

—Tea "Kára" Drobniewski

8

I wish I wrote down instances of joy more, but I'm not gonna force it. I have a deep desire to write about the love notes on my altar, lavender greeting me at the farm, calendula overwhelming me, my friend drawing snails to remind me to go slow, the sweetness yet tang of lemon balm tea in my mouth, kisses and pets of cats, even if they make my eyes itch.

Yet here's the thing. I know that maybe people are tired of hearing brown queer trans folks in grief, but damn, the burdens keep getting heavier to hold. So when I come to these pages, I must rage. The page swallows my words like a pill.

Last week, Israel bombed many neighborhoods I remember in Tehran; one place was six kilometers away from my house, the place I lived in my youth.

I tried to sandwich my instagram stories with:

[690 Iranians detained by ICE last week]

a picture of saffron and pomegranate

[More than 900 Iranians (hamvatani) killed by Israeli forces]

a picture of two Iranian men dancing sweetly together

[60,000+ Gazans killed by Israel, 66 times the number in Iran during war, I explain to the Iranian uncles, hoping they will also care about Palestine and see our fights as interconnected]

a picture of olive branches and poppies

Here's the info—horrible, real. Let me humanize us for your consumption. Add a spoonful of my flesh and blood, a tear, and something funny. But writing is a medicine for remembering; for continuing to be alive.

lxs compañerxs perseguidxs. Hoy nos encontramos en un momento crítico en la lucha por la libertad absoluta de Miguel Peralta. Tras la llegada del caso a la Suprema Corte de Justicia en el pasado 2023, y con una posibilidad anulada de poder poner fin a la persecución política y otorgarle su libertad plena, la Suprema Corte de Justicia se limitó a emitir una resolución en noviembre de 2024 en el que el caso fue devuelto al Primer Tribunal Colegiado de Oaxaca, limitándose únicamente hacer recomendaciones vagas a dicho tribunal bajo el argumento de "revisar el caso con una perspectiva intercultural y tomando en cuenta especificidades culturales de la comunidad indígena mazateca de Eloxochitlán", así mismo, recomendó estudiar si se habían respetado los derechos a la libre determinación y la autonomía en este caso.

Todo esto dicho por las autoridades obviamente dentro de la misma maraña que cede la bolita de la responsabilidad a otras instancias, nos llevó a una parte del proceso que, si bien es cierto que se ignoró toda esta perspectiva intercultural que ahora se señala, el hacerlo no nos garantiza que esta vez resulte de forma favorable para nuestro hermano Miguel Peralta.

Un estudio serio del expediente resultaría sin duda en la libertad absoluta de Miguel, sin embargo, conocemos el poder político de los responsables de la persecución y criminalización en Eloxochitlán: la familia caciquil-partidista Zepeda, específicamente el cacique máximo y ex presidente municipal Manuel Zepeda Cortes y su hija Elisa Zepeda Lagunas, actualmente diputada por Morena en el Congreso del Estado de Oaxaca. Sabemos la influencia que esta última tiene en los juzgados y tribunales, sabemos de las relaciones que mantiene con el gobernador del estado de Oaxaca, Salomón Jara, con la presidenta de la república, Claudia Sheinbaum y ahora incluso con el nuevo presidente de la Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación, Hugo Aguilar Ortiz. Sabemos que, independientemente del partido político que esté en el poder y su discurso, el Estado busca reprimir la autodeterminación de las comunidades indígenas.

Además del caso de Miguel Peralta, existen muchas órdenes de aprensión en contra de más de 50 integrantes de la comunidad de Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón, entre ellas Martha Betanzos y Martín Peralta (madre y hermano de Miguel), todas perpetradas por la misma familia caciquil y respaldadas por el sistema nefasto de justicia. No les ha bastado con estar en puestos de poder y utilizarlos para someter a la comunidad, quieren seguir manteniendo a familias enteras desplazadas y bajo la angustia de un día ser detenidas.

El pasado mes de abril, David Peralta, hermano menor de Miguel y fotoperiodista de la localidad, se encontraba ejerciendo su labor de documentación a través del registro fotográfico de la explotación y saqueo de los recursos naturales de la comunidad por la empresa familiar de los Zepeda, David fue atacado y amenazado por Manuel Zepeda y su personal, quienes le robaron sus herramientas de trabajo y lo persiguieron violentamente argumentando que se encontraba en "propiedad privada", lo que era totalmente falso.

Por todo esto les convocamos a solidarizarse y sumarse a la Jornada de Agitación por la Libertad Absoluta de Miguel Peralta Betanzos. Sugerimos realizarse actividades entre los meses de septiembre a noviembre de este año 2025, entiéndase agitación y acción en sus diversas formas y modalidades, con lo que la propia imaginación y herramientas nos permita, dibujos, poemas, música, mantas, gráfica, danza, cartas, eventos y acciones, todo en solidaridad con Miguel Peralta y la comunidad de Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón, exigiendo una vez más su LIBERTAD ABSOLUTA. Así mismo, les invitamos a estar atentes a las acciones próximas y difundir el caso por todos los medios posibles. Es un momento crucial para que la Justicia del Estado dicte sentencia de libertad absoluta a Miguel Peralta y él pueda volver a caminar por las calles, senderos, montañas, cañones y cafetales de su comunidad.

¡Alto a la persecución de las comunidades originarias!

¡Libertad absoluta para Miguel Peralta!

¡Libertad y Justicia para Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón!

¡Ni condenadxs! ¡Ni perseguidxs!

Grupo de Apoyo en Solidaridad con Miguel Peralta

Amigxs de Miguel Peralta y personas solidarias con la comunidad de Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón

Comparte tus propuestas y/o acciones a:

Correo: yalibreselox@riseup.net

FB: Libres Ya

IG: Libres.ya

Zines Are Not a Crime!: Free Des Revol

August 30, 2025

Call to support Des Revol in Dallas-Fort Wroth, TX. For more information, go here.

Des Revol—a tattoo artist, PoC anarchist, immigrant, and all-around sweetheart—is currently facing serious charges related to a larger case of political repression in Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas. But Des isn't just a victim of trumped-up political prosecution, he's a beloved artist and friend who loves nothing more than experimenting with new vegan recipes, digging into new books, looking at baby opossums and sometimes fostering them, and spending time with loved ones. As a longtime vegan dedicated to animal liberation, solidarity with nonhumans shows up in much of Des's artwork, including through his playful depictions of raccoons, cats, and other critters. Des extends this deep solidarity outward: he's a loving brother, son, and friend; he's a free-spirited dreamer who takes good care of everyone and everything around him. Now stuck

absolute freedom—in November 2024 the Supreme Court emitted a resolution returning the case to the collegiate court in Oaxaca. This ruling was limited to vague recommendations made to the collegiate court in Oaxaca, ordering them to "review the case from an intercultural perspective taking into account the cultural specificities of the Mazatec community of Eloxochitlán," and to study whether the rights of self-determination and autonomy were respected throughout the legal process.

This order of course comes from authorities who are part of the same structure of power, passing on the responsibility to other authorities, leading us to believe that while it is true that the intercultural perspective was ignored throughout this case, taking it into account does not guarantee that this time it will result in a favorable decision for our compañero Miguel Peralta.

A serious study of the case file would undoubtedly result in the absolute freedom of Miguel Peralta. However, we know the political power of those responsible for the persecution and criminalization in Eloxochitlán: the cacique-political party family of Zepeda, specifically the head cacique and ex-municipal president, Manuel Zepeda Cortes, and his daughter, Elisa Zepeda Lagunas, who is currently a member of the state congress in Oaxaca for the political party MORENA. We know the influence that Elisa Zepeda has in the courts and tribunals. We know the relations that she maintains with the governor of the state of Oaxaca, Salomón Jara, with the president of the republic, Claudia Sheinbaum, and now even with the new president of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation, Hugo Aguilar Ortiz. We know that, regardless of the political party in power and the discourse they maintain, the state constantly seeks to repress the self-determination of Indigenous communities.

In addition to the case of Miguel Peralta, there are active arrest warrants for more than 50 members of the community of Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón, among them Martha Betanzos and Martin Peralta (mother and brother of Miguel). All of these orders have been perpetrated by the same cacique family and backed up by the nefarious system of justice. It has not been enough for the Zepeda family to hold positions of power and use them to subjugate the community; they want to continue keeping entire families displaced and living in fear of one day being arrested.

In April of this year, David Peralta, the younger brother of Miguel Peralta and a photojournalist in the community, was taking photos of the exploitation and plunder of the natural resources carried out by the Zepeda family business, when he was attacked and threatened by Manuel Zepeda and one of his workers. David was robbed of his photography equipment, physically attacked, and accused of being on private property. This is totally false.

For all of the above, we call on everyone to show their solidarity and participate in these months of agitation for the absolute freedom of Miguel Peralta. We encourage people to carry out activities between the months of September and November of this year 2025, including agitation and action in its various forms and modalities, using whatever imagination and tools we have at our disposal: drawings, poems, music, banners, graphics, dance, letters, events, and actions. We also invite folks to be attentive to coming actions, and to disseminate information about the case by all means possible. It is a crucial moment for the state to once and for all order the absolute freedom of Miguel Peralta so that he can return to walk the streets, pathways, mountains, canyons, and coffee fields of his community.

End the political persecution against Indigenous people!

Absolute freedom for Miguel Peralta!

Freedom and justice for Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón!

Neither condemned, nor persecuted!

Support Group in Solidarity with Miguel Peralta

Friends of Miguel Peralta and People in Solidarity with the Community of Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón

Share your proposals and/or actions at:

Email: yalibreselox@riseup.net

FB: Libres Ya

IG: Libres.ya

Llamado a la Agitación por la Libertad Absoluta de Miguel Peralta y el pueblo de Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón

A los medios libres

A lxs compañerxs anarquistas, libres y autónomxs

A las colectivas y colectivos de gráfica y distintas expresiones artísticas

Desde hace más de 10 años la situación que se vive en el pueblo de Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón, en la sierra mazateca de Oaxaca, México, ha llamado la atención de quienes asumimos la autonomía de los pueblos y la defensa de territorio como algo legítimo y necesario.

Desde hace más de una década hemos sido testigxs de la lucha incansable del pueblo mazateco contra los poderes locales que se refuerzan como caciques y como parte de la estructura gubernamental quienes no han cesado tampoco en el robo y el asalto a la comunidad. Dentro de esa lucha nuestro hermano Miguel Peralta, mazateco, anarquista y defensor comunitario, ha sido uno de lxs muchxs que ha recibido duramente la represión. Pasó casi 5 años preso en el penal de Cuicatlán y actualmente se encuentra perseguido y alejado de su familia su territorio y su comunidad.

Si bien no es el único caso del pueblo, su defensa legal ha tenido un camino distinto al del resto de

—Yasi Shaker

9

I have never wanted to believe in
God more than I do now

I have never wanted more than now
for there to be a hell
where the unjust go
and the righteous are spared

When I meet him I will ask,
"What have you done?"
I imagine he will ask the same of me
We will weep
because the answer is the same

Not enough.

—Mark K. Tilsen

10

Some years ago I adopted four parakeets who had escaped the pet trade but were unable to survive alone outside. They live with me indoors, uncaged. Being with them, seeing how we do together, has metamorphosed my awareness of belonging and reciprocity. The love I feel for them so overwhelms, it makes my heart physically ache. They are my Kropotkin swans.

"Old woman, I hold in my hand a bird. Tell me whether it is living or dead?" is the question posed in a Toni Morrison story by some children to an old, blind town outcast. Long ago, this story helped me deal with what felt like a dead world, before I was old and had lost my gaze, before my body understood dissent as a line of flight.

A video circulated recently showing a girl, maybe ten, kneeling, face contorted in anguish, holding the stiff body of a tiny green parakeet. The text pasted over it said: "Selma lost her bird due to the intensity of the bombing near their house." I saved a still. Each time I look, the heart goes rabid. No matter what I ever thought the question of the bird may have meant (for Morrison, it was the survivability of a language the state can't capture), Selma holds its answer. I am annihilated.

I pray she is still alive. Across dimensions, time, and space, together we re-form: Selma, me, and this pain.

—A. Hornak

11

Every few days, I get up, go to my laptop, print out a couple-dozen posters from the many curated folders of art sourced from Flyers for Falastin, carefully stuff all the prints into a transparent plastic folder with a snap fastener, top up my water bottle with wallpaper paste, give it a good shake for half a minute, wrap the bottle in an old tartan-print tea towel that's hardened in some areas, and shove the whole thing in an old IKEA ziplock bag along with a half-used packet of wallpaper powder, pair of needle-nose pliers in case the bottle cover gets stuck, a wall brush about five inches wide with bristles that have gone a little stiff from hasty cleaning, put on my usual attire—a black, short-sleeve coverall and black sneakers—leave my flat quietly so the cat doesn't wake up my partner, head down the labyrinth of corridors and flights of steps, rush through the humdrum of traffic, past the sea of faceless humanity, to the disused parking lot above the old market marked for demolition. Here, the real ritual takes place: with furious strokes and sloshes of gloop over brightly colored paper on pillars, walls, and any empty space left to fend for itself, I pour out my grief.

—shi Blank

12

This I know: not all grief is the same; varied losses have differ-ent textures. But nothing prepared me for grief under fascism.

Intellectually, I know that past fascisms have stolen so much from millions+, and the profound losses reverberate over generations. One can catalog lost kin and places, lost cultures, lost radical movements, lost possibilities. One can read books, visit genocide museums and mass murder sites, pause before monuments and public art of remembrance. One can be heartsick over the dead and sick over the human capacity for brutality when walking through a serene forest that, before erasure, was a centuries-old cemetery. I've done all of that and more.

Viscerally, that's another matter. Our bodies seem poor containers to hold the immensity of losses swirling all around us. What can record, much less make sense of, the flood of sorrow that runs through one's veins when living under fascism? So I try, and likely fail, to name my feelings, which first and foremost, is a lack of feeling. I know that I feel new emotions—like fear, paranoia, rage and impatience (mostly at liberals), indecisiveness (given what's at stake), and lack of futurity—along with old ones—such as ancestral trauma and a sense of abandonment. But mostly, I feel flat, distant, numb. How can grief over fascism shut down my emotional range?

So I try harder to notice when I do feel; it's always in little real-life moments that don't look away from the grief of fascism. To name one: it wasn't listening to the public reading aloud—with solemn intention and dignity, for sixteen hours—of some of the many names of children murdered in Gaza that somatically hit home. It was standing behind a Palestinian kid, maybe age eight, sprawled on the ground, an open notebook before them, writing each and every name down in crayon.

—Cindy Barukh Milstein

13

All of us inShabbes 24/7, a queer Jewish collective in Belgium, had been coping with conflicts within our families and friendship groups. We were wrestling with our identities and roles as Jews in ending the genocide in Gaza, and the grief that goes along with living in a time of mass death in our names. We needed a space dedicated to rerooting in care and our values.

So we wrote our own "Shabbat Ritual for Holding Grief and Joy." Because in Judaism, grief and joy go hand in hand; both need to be experienced fully and cannot be bypassed.

The first one we hosted was in a garden. We shared figs from the tree

of one of our grandmother's who was in the process of transitioning out of life. We named our losses and listened. We lit candles, sang, and reflected on questions we'd devised, and took a bite of something sweet. We read words we'd crafted to move us through our ritual—some of which are here; all of which we posted on social media for others to use:

"In memory, in defiance, in tenderness—against genocide, empire, and erasure. ... [We] call in [our] ancestors—the broken, the brave, the exiled, the excommunicated. [We] call in the future, not yet born. ... We do not mourn alone. We mourn across borders, beyond flags, into memory that holds us accountable and makes us whole. ... [We] bless the defiant joy that still survives in [us]. ... The world we want is not built or the bones of martyrs. It is built with their dreams, their unfinished songs, their whispered hopes. Grief and sweetness can live in the same breath."

We arrived feeling a heaviness and left feeling lighter, having been able to shift a bit of our sadness, powerlessness, and frustration into togetherness, joy, and renewed focus.

—Fenya and Shoshana

14

The river is scarred with luxury condos and PFAS. A neighbor who lives under a bridge got violently evicted. A trans suicide attempt shake us. ICE abducted the neighbors before we arrived. The flock camera documents our movements. Safety is elusive. We feel the state closing in on our bodies. Trying to force us inward.

Yet we find soft landings: bergamot bitters, windswept sand, the call of the crane. We remind one another of paths beyond decimation, through post-op care plans, river trips, and crip kinship. We dance and dream despite the wreckage. Life force weaves through the grief.

-Lior

15

Almost every week, for twenty-two months, we've been marching for Gaza en masse—our cup of grief full. Yet even as the organizing became tighter and the speeches more on point, the media coverage evaporated. The police tightened their lines, vacuum sealing our mobilizations. Large numbers of people in one place seemed to have less and less impact. Meanwhile, our sorrow only increased as the atrocities multiplied. Our cup spilled over, time and again, with seemingly nowhere to go.

But like charged ions, our energy, catalyzed by our grief, diffuses across the barrier. Small numbers of people grip Palestinian flags and gather on new corners. Neighbors hold bake sales, fly kites, paint murals, hold vigils, and gather. Some, until now silent, join in. Grief has dispersed us across the landscape and drawn us onto the lesser-traveled streets, touching people and places that hold the heaviness of these times.

—Lesley Wood

16

"We just bombed Iran."

We were in our swimsuits. We were leaving the beach, returning to the concrete and traffic lights. The conversation halted as we swiped and typed. Where did it hit? How many were hurt? How many were killed?

"This reminds me of October 7," our friend said. "We were terrified for our family over there, trying to figure out where they were. It was stressful."

After some time on their phone, they spat, "People are being dismissive as fuck in this chat. I'm leaving it. Why are people like this?"

Cynicism protects us. It puts distance between ourselves and the situation. "The United States has always been an imperialist state. What did we expect?" "I knew this would happen. How could anybody be surprised?"

But reacting with cynicism also puts distance between us and the people who are affected, and the people who are feeling it deeply. We want to be disconnected from tragedy, but instead we disconnect from those around us. To move through this, we need to be together. And being together means being vulnerable and lingering in our grief.

As we continue through this nightmare, let's invite ourselves out of cynicism and the detachment it provides. Let's hold our knee-jerk "I knew" and "of course" to ourselves for a moment, and watch what can happen when we find words that connect us to each another's pain, shock, and fear. As fascism and its brutality intensifies, let us be human in the face of it together.

—Astaroth

17

The planned destruction of Gaza City is an unthinkable atrocity on the tip of history's tongue. We do not yet know if it will be spit out like wormwood or swallowed with gusto. ICE's destruction of our communities and sowing of fear is like a blanket of night on the land, as centuries of settler society reaches even more lethal conclusions. It's becoming harder and harder for queer and trans beloveds, and even harder to believe in the possibility that "we will outlive" the state's repression.

I feel all of this and more straining my heart, threatening to squeeze tears from my eyes to the point of bursting. I grieve for lost beloveds. I grieve for what's being torn apart and occupied, for martyrs and rebels slandered as "outside agitators" in their own homes. Every Shabbos, when I do my hormone injections and bring the light to my eyes, I worry I'm not strong enough to survive.

Through it all, though, I try and remember that grief is the flip side of love and a sign of what we're capable of. To love and be loved is dangerous. We cannot comply in advance, no matter how much we're told we're wrong to love this much.

Oh Great Mystery, I call out your name from the depths of this pit:

During the Great Depression, from 1929-1939, nearly 2 million Mexicans and Mexican Americans, many of them US-born citizens or workers who had been recruited to migrate to America during a 1920s labor shortage, were deported to Mexico. Armed federal agents raided parks, farms, social clubs, and hospitals, demanding that anyone with brown skin or a name government officials thought sounded "Mexican" supply proof of citizenship. Anyone without papers on hand was arrested and loaded onto a train. At the time, it was called "repatriation"; today, we call it ethnic cleansing. The ethnic violence was supported by nativist labor unions like the American Federation of Labor, which argued that the actions would lead to more jobs and higher wages for white American workers, but the opposite was true: cities where border patrol launched large repatriation raids (like L.A.) had overall lower wages and higher unemployment throughout the Depression.

The raids also were one of many repressive tactics used to quell the wave of multiracial labor organizing taking place on California farms, and this union busting may have been one reason wages were lower in areas where raids were widespread. Mexican agricultural workers, alongside Filipino workers and white Dust Bowl migrants, founded the Communist-aligned, multiracial Cannery and Agricultural Workers Industrial Union in 1929, organizing massive strikes in 1933 and 1934, including the Cotton Strike, which was the largest Agricultural strike in US history. Workers demanded ice and clean drinking water, outhouses, raises, picking sacks, and compensation for injured workers on lettuce, melon, cherry, berry, pear, and pea farms. Striking workers were attacked and murdered by members of the Associated Farmers, a fascist vigilante group who collaborated with local prosecutors to have strike leaders arrested under the Criminal Syndicalism Law. The brutal repression of workers' rights in the fields worked in symphony with the violent border patrol raids on homes and communities—a reminder that current calls for "American jobs" are not only nativist but also a cudgel for keeping all workers under the thumb of capital.

We hope you find this issue of *TOS* interesting and useful. As always, we invite you to send us any thoughts, analysis, ideas, and suggestions you have in response to the contents of the newsletter. We're always excited to receive your essays, stories, poetry, art, illustrations, and anything else you want to share. Unfortunately, MDOC now blocks *TOS* issues that contain writing by Michigan prisoners, so we can't include these writings here. But we would love to hear from you anyway, and we're always looking for suggestions for themes for future issues and topics for future interviews as well. Be sure to share this issue with friends.

With respect and solidarity,

MAPS

Photo by Hédi Benyounes on Unsplash

Announcing: Anathema Volume 11 Issue 1

September 1, 2025

Announcing a new issue of *Anathema,* a Philadelphia-based anarchist periodical.

Volume 11 Issue 1 (PDF for reading 8.5×11)

Volume 11 Issue 1 (PDF for printing 11×17)

In this issue:

- What Went Down
- Ins & Outs
- Leadership
- Is It Fascism?
- Ten Years Of Anti-Gentrification
- Ben Morea Talk Reportback
- Anarchist Muay Thai
- The Moon Is Down Review

Photo by Fredy Martinez on Unsplash

Call for Agitation for the Absolute Freedom of Miguel Peralta and the Community of Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón

August 31, 2025

Communique from the support group of Miguel Peralta calling for solidarity actions and agitation during the months of September-November of this year.

To the Independent Media

To the Anarchist and Autonomous Individuals, Collectives, and Movements

To the Art Collectives and Different Artistic Expressions

For more than ten years, the situation in the community of Eloxochitlán de Flores Magón, in the Sierra Mazateca de Oaxaca, Mexico, has drawn the attention of those who believe in the autonomy of Indigenous communities and the defense of territory as something legitimate and necessary.

For more than a decade we have witnessed the tireless struggle of the Mazatec people against local power holders—caciques and officials of the governmental apparatus—who have not ceased in their assault on the community and theft of the natural resources. Within this struggle, our compañero Miguel Peralta—Mazatec anarchist and community organizer—has been one of the many community members who has faced stiff state repression. He was imprisoned in Cuicatlán, Oaxaca, for nearly five years and is currently being persecuted by the state, separated from his family, his territory, and his community.

Although Miguel Peralta is not the only case of political persecution in the community, his legal defense and judicial process have taken a different pathway than the rest of the persecuted companerxs. Today, we are at a critical moment in the struggle for the absolute freedom of Miguel Peralta. After his case was taken up by the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation in 2023—with the possibility of ending once and for all the political persecution against him and ordering his

detained migrants being "fed to the alligators," which recalls historic anti-Black racism that referred to Black children as "alligator bait." Postcards and cartoons from the early 1900s depicting this kind of racism dehumanized Black children and presented this violence as humorous. With the June 30 revocation of Temporary Protected Status (a specific visa status for people who cannot return safely to their country of origin due to armed conflicts, environmental disaster, etc.) for Haitians in the US, and with around 480,000 Haitians living in Florida alone, the deportation project is targeting not just Latinx people but also Black people for incarceration, torture, expulsion, and premature death.

On July 7, eight men were deported to South Sudan after the Supreme Court ruled that the Trump administration can transfer expelled immigrants to third countries with which they have no ties. Only one of the men in the group is Sudanese —the others are from Cuba, Laos, Mexico, Burma, and Vietnam. Prior to their deportation, they had been held in a shipping container in Djibouti. In our last issue, we wrote about the deportation agreements between El Salvador and the US to hold migrants captive at the CECOT mega-prison. Since then, many more people have been removed from detention in the continental US to extralegal sites in Djibouti and Puerto Rico (a US colony). Trump has also proposed pressuring countries like Nigeria, Rwanda, and Liberia into accepting deportees from the US, even if they are not from these countries. This pressure comes as Trump has also imposed new visa restrictions on Nigeria, while Nigeria tries to negotiate new deals with the US around critical minerals, oil, and gas. We wanted to include this information in our news roundup because we think it shows how prisons, jails, and ICE detention centers are all connected (another topic that comes up in the interview), and because Trump has repeatedly threatened to denaturalize citizens and deport them as punishment.

In our Summer 2024 issue, we wrote about the massive, youth-led protests against President William Ruto that had spread across Kenya. The protests have continued over the last year. Initially sparked in response to a finance bill that raised taxes on essential goods, the protests have broadened their focus to police violence and impunity, government corruption, and the high cost of living. The finance bill was retracted early on in June 2024, but since then the proposed taxes were implemented through other legislative amendments. Protesters remain resolute in their opposition both to the taxes and to the government as a whole. According to *Al Jazeera* and other news sources, police repression has continued and even intensified in recent months. This has included disappearances of protesters by government-backed goon squads, as well as the June 2025 murder of the popular blogger Albert Ojwang while in police custody. Recently, on June 25, organizers called for large demonstrations to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the movement. Police responded to the demonstrations with live ammunition, tear gas, and water cannons, killing at least 16 and injuring close to 400 across Nairobi, Kikuyu, Mombasa, Kisii, and other towns across the eastern side of the country. More recently, the nationwide annual "Saba Saba" ("Seven Seven" in Kiswahili) protests, which commemorate the movement for the return to multiparty democracy that began in 1990 on July 7 (or 7/7), faced brutal repression, with police killing another 11 protesters across the country. But protesters vow to not rest until Ruto is removed from office.

Israel's genocidal war against the Palestinians continues. In the last *TOS*, we noted that Israel had begun a complete blockade of food and other aid at the beginning of March (during a ceasefire!). Israel partially lifted the blockade on May 19, which means that it lasted over 11 weeks. And even then, the aid they are letting in is extremely limited. In part, this is because of how it's being distributed. In the wake of the 1948 *nakba* ("catastrophe" in Arabic), when Israeli soldiers and militias violently expelled 750,000 Palestinians from their lands in order to establish the Zionist state, a UN organization called UNRWA was set up to provide humanitarian aid and necessary services like education and health care (all part of what we called "reproductive labor" above) to Palestinian refugees and their descendants. Since it provides these necessary, life-sustaining services, the genocidal Israeli state has long targeted UNRWA in its attacks and more recently has persuaded the US government to cut off funding for the organization. All of that is important context for what's happened since Israel partially lifted its blockade. Israel and the US have backed a new organization called the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) to replace UNRWA and deliver aid (hm, what could go wrong?). While UNRWA provided aid for Gaza's more than two million inhabitants at 400 locations, GHF uses just four sites. These sites have quickly become death traps. As of July 7, *The Guardian* reports that Israeli soldiers and US mercenaries working for GHF have killed almost 800 Palestinians who were lining up for food aid. At least 4,000 people have been wounded. The Israeli military calls these aid sites "combat zones," rhetorically turning desperate men, women, and children trying to survive starvation into "enemy combatants." Palestinians are being killed not only with US-made guns, bombs, and missiles, but with forced starvation and the lure of humanitarian aid.

Did You Know? This is our regular feature about histories from below that have been silenced or distorted by the powers that be. Although ICE was created relatively recently, following 9/11, the violent policies leading to mass deportation and the revocation of birthright citizenship reflect the heart of the US's immigration policy from the very first: "nation of immigrants" is just as laughable as "home of the free." There are countless examples of this, from the Chinese Exclusion Act to Eisenhower's "Operation Wetback," but for this issue's *Did You Know?* we are going to look back at a time when, like today, America undertook a campaign of ethnic cleansing against Central American people.

the way I love is not wrong. Make my outpouring of grief a mirror so that I never forget just how adept I am at love. Our capacity for loving connections is our capacity to withstand the horrors to come, to face our fears, to become subversive. To all of my lovers constricted by sorrow, I pray, "Let's become dangerous, together."

—Anastasia bat Lilith

18

Today marks one week since the encounter with the border patrol agent in the El Paso, Texas, airport. A racist white man saw me as a disposable person.

Today marks one week of not being able to see the sunsets every evening; of not being able to feel the warmth of the land; of not being able to sprout seeds; or hear the elders and children laugh. It has been a week full of stories of strife rooted in forced immigration and to come face-to-face with the criminalization of the immigrant. Getting to see the guts of the for-profit system that scrutinizes every move we make, that locks us far away from loved ones.

Where the lights are on day and night; where every evening's dinner is a frozen ham and cheese sandwich, crackers, and orange juice; where you ask for permission to use the bathroom and bathe yourself at certain times of day.

Those who work here make fun of the immigrants in English. When people get sick, they make fun of them, and the nurses only offer them water. The water in here stinks.

But here we breathe companionship and solidarity. Here we share ailments, stories, advice, encouragements, and learn to play games together.

In the words of Roque Dalton, the Salvadoran poet: "My veins don't end in me, but in the unanimous blood of those who struggle to live, love, little things, landscape and bread, the poetry of everyone."

And how they say in the South: "The fight continues until dignity becomes the norm."

—Cata "Xóchitl" Santiago

19

If grief means to make heavy, then we must ask ourselves, How will that weight be distributed? How do we take that weight and turn it into a blunt force object with which to bludgeon the fascist regime that would otherwise see us disappeared either by death or incarceration (a social death as it's called)? Fascism capitalizes on our grief by immobilizing people with the looming threat of such fates. But we will not limit ourselves to its endings. As anarchists, we are much more creative than that.

When my partner was locked away as a result of our assault on fascism, we got creative with our lifelines. When communication was reduced to ghostly transmissions in the form of letters and phone visits, we found portals of possibility. He put strands of hair in a letter so I could put them on his pillow, remembering when our bed was shared. I drew raindrops on fingertips to hold against the plexiglass when I visited the prison, reminding him of the earth he could not see. Sacred doesn't have to mean somber, so we tell jokes, sharing laughs with loved ones on both sides of the walls, thinning the veils. Defying the dictum, we choose life. With his continued incarceration, the weight of our grief has not lessened, but we don't carry it alone.

As we grieve publicly, let us all rage against the dying of the light by being brave together and accepting that if our courage makes us outlaws, so be it.

—Krystal

The Heart Is a Muscle: 19 Embodiments of Antifascist Grief is an act of love and solidarity. Please share this zine freely and widely.

For other zines in this series," check out *Don't Just Do Nothing: 20 Things You Can Do to Counter Fascism* and *Anarchist Compass: 29 Offerings for Navigating Christofascism*, and most recently, *Ritual as Resistance: 18 Stories of Defending the Sacred*,

For other zines in this series, see *Don't Just Do Nothing: 20 Things You Can Do to Counter Fascism*, *Anarchist Compass: 29 Offerings for Navigating Christofascism*, *Ritual as Resistance: 18 Stories of Defending the Sacred*, and most recently, *Everyday Antifascism: 14 Ways That Solidarity Keeps Us Safer*, all freely available at *ItsGoingDown.Org*, with big thanks to *IGD* for hosting the texts and PDFs on its website.

I extend my gratitude to Ez Naive (EZNaive.com; @ez.naive.art on IG), a Greek artist currently living and creating on the traditional, unceded, and ancestral lands of the Coast Salish peoples, for the cover artwork, originally titled "Devotion," and as with past zines, Casandra (www.houseofhands.net) for kindly turning my design and layout into PDFs.

August 2025

cover photo: Alissa Azar

The Opening Statement – Summer 2025

September 1, 2025

Announcing a new issue of *The Opening Statement*, an abolitionist publication from Michigan.

Celebrate our 25th issue of *The Opening Statement!* TOS is a free quarterly newsletter that features articles, poetry, political writing and opinion pieces by people inside and outside of prison. This issue of The Opening Statement includes two articles, an interview, and a poem. You will especially want to read our interview with JR, of the No Detention Centers in Michigan (NDCM) coalition, about the GEO Group reopening the notorious North Lake Detention Center in Baldwin, MI, as an ICE facility. North Lake reopened in late June and is already holding hundreds of detainees. If it reaches capacity, it will become the largest ICE detention center in the Midwest. MAPS is a long-time member of the

NDCM coalition. Learn more about NDCM and join the fight with us!

The two articles both share a focus on abolition and reproduction. Finally, we include a poem, "Ghazal to Open Cages," by Angel Nafis, from the poetry collection, *Like a Hammer: Poets on Mass Incarceration*. We hope you enjoy, share, and discuss this issue!

THE OPENING STATEMENT - SUMMER 2025 (CLICK THE LINK TO DOWNLOAD PDF)

ARTICLES AND AUTHORS LISTED BELOW:

- **Notes from the Editors**
- Ghazal to Open Cages Angel Nafiz
- We Need Reproductive Justice Now! An Argument for Abolition Rachel E. Utz, J.D.
- Building a World without Family Policing Dorothy Roberts
- **Interview with JR of No Detention Centers in Michigan** MAPS

Greetings friends and happy summer!

This issue of *The Opening Statement* includes two articles, an interview, and a poem. Both articles share a general focus on abolition and reproduction. "Reproduction" includes literally having kids, but it also goes way beyond that. Think about all of the work it takes to raise a kid: most obviously carrying a pregnancy and giving birth, with all of the health care and other forms of support that this entails; but it also requires buying and preparing food, providing and maintaining a place to live, along with childcare and schooling, emotional and physical care, activities and other forms of socialization. Often families, extended families, or chosen families/friends/communities are involved. We could call all of this work "reproductive labor." Because of the way that our society is organized, this work is often delegated to women, who are often expected and even forced to do this work "because of their nature." Of course, lots of people, including men, do reproductive labor—even in prison, think about who does the cooking and cleaning. In this expanded sense, "reproduction" refers not just to something women do by having kids, but to an entire social system that produces and maintains life on a daily and intergenerational basis—a social system in which many forms of oppression, inequality, and violence are embedded.

The first article, by the attorney Rachel E. Utz, proposes a framework of "reproductive justice" that uses this expanded sense of "reproduction" both to imagine a truly "just" world and to develop a political approach to get there. For Utz, the reproductive justice framework goes beyond pro-choice/pro-life debates by considering everything that is required to achieve and maintain bodily autonomy. Most importantly, Utz argues that reproductive justice requires abolition.

The second article, by the scholar Dorothy Roberts, introduces her book titled *Torn Apart: How the Child Welfare System Destroys Black Families—and How Abolition Can Build a Safer World*. In the article, Roberts discusses the violence and racism of the "child welfare system" and argues that this system works not to help children but to police and terrorize families, especially Black families. Roberts also explains how she came to see abolition as the best and really the only way to support the well-being of children, families, and communities.

Next up is our interview with JR, a member of the No Detention Centers in Michigan (NDCM) coalition, which is organizing against the reopening of a massive, for-profit ICE detention center in Baldwin, MI. (MAPS is part of the NDCM coalition.) In the last issue of *TOS*, we included a news item about the reopening of this detention center, and we wanted to keep following this issue both because it's so close to home and because it's such an important part of the Trump administration's fascist "mass deportation" strategy. In the interview, JR talks about the history of this detention center, the organizing that NDCM is doing, and why abolition is an important framework for the group, among other topics.

Finally, we include a poem from the poetry collection *Like a Hammer: Poets on Mass Incarceration* called "Ghazal to Open Cages," by Angel Nafis. We love that the poem keeps coming back to the word *how*—every line ends with this word, which pushes us to think about process. We'd love to hear your thoughts on the poem too.

Now for the news roundup. In MDOC news, an important lawsuit was filed on May 6 by prisoners at Women's Huron Valley CF, alleging that guards violated the law by regularly using their body cameras to record strip searches and other situations where prisoners were exposed. Complaints about this horrible invasion of privacy were initially raised on February 17, but it took MDOC until March 24 to change its policy and require guards to put their cameras on "sleep mode" during strip searches. Even after the policy change, however, guards apparently continue to record prisoners in this way. We thought this was important to mention because many reformers see body cams as a real solution to the problem of abuse by guards, but in this case they have actually created new problems and new forms of abuse. What have you noticed about the rollout of body cameras at your facility? Have things changed for better or worse? How have guards reacted to the new requirement to use these cameras? Have you tried to request body cam footage, and if so have you faced retaliation for doing so?

In early June, the *Detroit News* reported that MDOC rolled out a new policy tightening controls on prisoners' electronic tablets. The article mentioned changes to the approval and verification process and the inclusion of altered tablets as an example of "dangerous contraband." Readers will know that we're interested in prison censorship, so we wanted to ask if you have seen or experienced these new restrictions, and maybe other kinds of restrictions that weren't reported on in the article. For example, we know that here in Michigan at the Monroe County Jail, guards refused to charge people's tablets, making them useless. There was nothing in the policy that required guards to charge tablets, and they were the only source of reading material as the library had been purged of print books. Have you heard of or seen new restrictions on tablets, formal or informal?

In an article published by the Prison Journalism Project, we read that Thumb Correctional Facility is planning to transform an unused warehouse into a "self-contained college center" for all of the prisoners held there. According to the article, once the center is built, anyone at that prison who doesn't meet certain eligibility requirements (including good behavior, minimum GPA, etc.) will be transferred. Increasing access to college classes is great, but having to maintain eligibility can turn this opportunity into a tool for administrators and guards to control and repress prisoners. Have folks at Thumb and elsewhere heard about the project, and if so what do you think?

We included an article in the Summer 2024 issue about the decision by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to enact new rules to reduce phone and video call rates for prisoners and to prohibit providers from paying commissions and kickbacks (i.e. bribes) to jails and prisons where they operate. The new rules were supposed to go into effect around the country in 2025, though facilities with active contracts were granted a one-year extension. (We've heard that rates did come down at some Michigan prisons at least.) Now, the Prison Policy Initiative (PPI) reports that the FCC has abruptly announced a two-year postponement for implementing these rules. Apparently, the decision comes in response to retaliation by a small group of county sheriffs in states like Arkansas who have said that if the FCC blocks their kickbacks, they will cut off phone calls entirely in their jails. Also, some Republican state attorneys general sued the FCC claiming that the new rules would make it harder to monitor calls (a service offered by the companies) and therefore a security risk. Obviously all of that is bullshit and the real reason is that they want to squeeze as much money as they can out of prisoners, families, and friends. The two-year postponement means that the rules won't go into effect until April 2027, but in the meantime these sheriffs and the prison telecom industry will lobby against them as much as they can, so who knows if they will be implemented at all. In the meantime, we're interested to hear from you whether call rates increase again.

A bit of good news for a change: Last fall, we reported on the Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel's decision to bring criminal charges against 11 students and community members who protested against the University of Michigan's investment in weapons manufacturers that sell bombs, missiles, and other technologies of death to the Israeli government. When the local prosecutor declined to bring charges against these protesters, UM's president and regents (members of the board that basically oversees the university) reached out privately to AG Nessel and asked her to bring the charges instead. She gladly agreed. (The *Guardian* reported that six of the eight regents had contributed thousands of dollars to Nessel's electoral campaigns; one regent was co-chaired of her campaign in 2018; and several were personal friends with her. Nessel also received significant donations from pro-Israel politicians, organizations, and university donors.) But in May, after months of sustained pressure, she reluctantly dropped all of these charges! We hope that losing so bad in court makes her think twice about bringing charges like this in the future, but given her financial and ideological commitments we can't be sure.

During Trump's second presidential campaign, "millions of deportations" became a rallying cry for his supporters. Trump has been trying to make good on this promise since he took office, expanding and accelerating a deportation system strengthened by the Obama and Biden administrations. These efforts have come to a head since May of this year, as raids conducted by masked ICE agents have escalated in cities across the US. ICE has descended on Home Depots, day labor centers, car washes, high school graduations, elementary school playgrounds, summer camps, and farms among other locations, to kidnap people from their communities and disappear them into the bowels of the growing carceral system. ICE began a series of raids across California on June 6. Los Angeles, as well as surrounding cities, saw both localized protests against ICE, and the deployment of the National Guard in response. Solidarity marches took place in San Francisco, Austin, Chicago, New York, and other cities. Thousands of anti-ICE demonstrators have been arrested by local and state police, who have often aided and abetted in these raids as well. All along, ICE has become more and more brazen with broad daylight kidnappings, with sometimes more than 10 masked agents tackling, wrestling, and dragging away a single person.

We are learning more about the conditions of ICE detention in the US and frankly batshit deportation stories of regular people (our interview with JR also covers some of these issues). You may have heard of "Alligator Alcatraz," the brand new detention center (or concentration camp) built in 8 days in the Florida Everglades on sacred Miccosukee land. A lawyer who tried to visit one of their clients there writes: "The facility is filling daily with more and more people, and it lacks basic infrastructure to handle its current capacity, while not yet having reached max capacity. Detainees are being issued inmate and booking numbers, but cannot be found on the ICE detainee locator, nor Collier or Miami-Dade County inmate searches. The population has been detained by ICE, but ICE is denying jurisdiction, saying it's a state facility. My client has been denied access to his attorney, denied the right to file a motion for bond, which he is statutorily eligible for, and denied the right to a hearing on said motion for bond before an immigration judge." Moreover, Trump supporters have been delighted at the prospect of